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DANTE CAPUTO DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PY200143 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1155 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has said before executives of the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) that "if I have to create a conflict with the United States to maintain autonomy, I can assure you that this autonomy would be useless." [Si para mantener la autonomia yo termino produciendo un conflicto con los Estadoes Unidos, yo les puedo asegurar que esa autonomia se barre.]

"At the level of international relations, we have to accept what I call privileged political partners" said the minister, emphasizing that "we are not about to have a full, total support for the United States." The foreign minister said: "The real capabilities of the United States to influence the internal affairs of Latin American states is a concrete fact and I would be a hypocrite to deny it."

He added: "I believe we have to recognize the fact, whether we like it or not that we have up north the most powerful country on earth. This is a fact." He said: "The challenge consists in finding a way not to get into a conflict with that country, accept the basic needs of that country, and at the same time maintain a necessary margin of autonomy for our country to develop according to its own life-style and options."

Caputo made these remarks on 3 April during a luncheon given in his honor by the UIA, but his speech was kept confidential. However, NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS was able to get the main part of his speech, which was transcribed from the recording by the Foreign Ministry. Although the foreign minister delivered this speech 2 weeks ago -- before his trip to the United States -- the meaning of is remarks is important.

The minister also discussed the prospects of capitalism in Argentina and the local repercussions of the East-West conflict. He also criticized the policies implemented by Peronism and the Radical Civic Union for many years.

Caputo also said that Argentina needs to practice "a policy of nonalignment to prevent the confrontation between the great powers from increasing the problems in our countries." Caputo gave "historic and concrete proof" of how in the last 10 years "this confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union" was harshly felt in Argentina and how costly it was."

Caputo remarked that "we might say that Argentina is not part of world geography or history, or that it does not belong to the Americas or to Latin America. However, this would be just as wrong as saying that, for the Nonaligned Movement, Thailand and Chile, and the United States and the USSR are exactly the same. For me, they are not the same."

He said: "I am not here to be pro-American, I am not. I just want to be realistic."

Regarding matters related to his area, Caputo said that "in the field of foreign policy I see two great issues as negative elements we have inherited."

First of all, he talked about "an anarchic and erratic foreign policy going around changing partners" recalling that "this country started off 1976 making a declaration of being Western and Christian" but "ended embracing Fidel Castro and warmly greeting 'Arafat."

Caputo then said that we should clearly establish "who are the ones we want to get close to and why" and "what are the benefits and costs of getting close to some countries and away from others."

He added that the other "negative consequences of the situation inherited in the last few years is that not only was the Argentine foreign policy destroyed by making it anarchic, unpredictable, irrational, and erratic, but its content was destroyed" and that "the foreign policy was no longer made in the Ministry of Foreign Relations, a ministry which was only used for protocol."

He went on to explain that his policy was "to accept people regardless of their political leanings because I found very few people capable of implementing a policy that would have been destructive at that time if we had chosen people on the basis of political criterion."

CAPUTO ON FOREIGN DEBT, INFORMATION LEAKS

PY200302 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2112 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (TELAM) -- Today Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo corrected statements attributed to him during a meeting that he held with leaders and businessmen of the Argentine Industrial Union saying that Argentina will not meet its financial commitments, commitments which were negotiated by the secretariat of commerce, by stressing that he never made such statements.

Shortly before he left Ezeiza on his way to Paris and in response to questions posed by the journalists, Caputo explained that, unfortunately, sometimes it happens that some phrases are taken out of context, as isolated items, many of which have not been stated but only attributed, something which leads to confusion, and that the meaning of such phrases, which are part of the overall explanation of a given situation, is distorted.

Caputo believed that a painstaking analysis would be necessary -- phrase after phrase -- but there was one phrase in particular that he wanted to deny, which is the one that was attributed to him saying that the Foreign Ministry or the government will raise objections to the trade agreement struck with Cuba. Caputo stressed that he never said such a thing, that it is out of context, and that it is a report that complicates Argentine foreign relations.

Asked about a statement that he would be renegotiating a $6-million [deal] with the EEC, Caputo stressed that, as foreign minister, he is not in charge of renegotiating the foreign debt, but that the economy minister is the one who basically copes with this task. In this regard, Caputo reiterated that this [foreign] debt has a very significant political element and that, therefore, being the Foreign Ministry, these missions abroad seek to support and share the technical efforts by the Economy Ministry and the Central Bank through political talks.

Asked what was done at the Foreign Ministry to prevent classified information leaks, Caputo said that a number of in-house security mechanisms have been implemented. He also explained that we inherited a system in which each cable had a considerable number of copies, copies which we significantly reduced in February. Caputo said that the cable dealing with the foreign debt issue which was published by a morning daily only had two copies, that is, it was not a leak due to the fact that several cables were lying on a desk, scattered around, and that someone grabbed one of them and took it to the press.

Caputo explained that since the cable was numbered, that it had the issuance time in Washington and the reception time in Buenos Aires, it could only have come out of the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Caputo was caught by surprise when he was asked whether he could confirm or deny reports that he had received threats. Caputo just replied by asking another question, saying me threatened, who, where, tell me, this is a subject I am interested in.

Caputo traveled to France at the official invitation of the French Government to meet with his French counterpart, Claude Cheysson, and with the [French] prime minister, who invited Caputo for dinner at which time they will have an opportunity to talk.

In January the Argentine Government presented to France a proposal for cooperation in the technical-scientific field and both parties are now busy working on it. "Now we will give the final touches to arrive at the final agreements on cooperation and assistance soon," said Caputo.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR VISIT TO FRANCE

PY192304 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has left for France. He is due to meet with French officials in Paris, where he will negotiate the implementation of several bilateral cooperation projects. He will meet with his French counterpart, Claude Cheysson, with whom he will discuss bilateral and multilateral issues. Caputo is scheduled to deliver a lecture on international political issues in Paris on Tuesday. On his way back home, the Argentine foreign minister will make a brief stopover in Montevideo on Wednesday to attend a LAIA, Latin American Integration Association, meeting. [passage indistinct]

Concerning the need to restructure or revitalize the OAS, Caputo said:

[Begin Caputo recording] We believe that the OAS must be revitalized and reinvigorated as a forum for dialogue at the hemispheric level. The strengthening of all forums for hemispheric dialogue is an essential task. This the case of the OAS. In this regard, what we have to do is (?introduce actual), and not merely superficial, changes, so that the OAS may become a stable institution that should provide the framework for a dialogue between the United States and the other [words indistinct] countries. [end recording]

TRADE UNIONS RESUME TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT

WA171728 Rome IPS in English 17 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, April 13 (IPS) -- Top leaders of Argentina's General Labor Confederation (CGT), the nation's powerful trade union umbrella group, met today with Labor Minister Antonio Mucci, resuming talks which broke down in late February. Although the unionists warned that they would discuss only socio-economic matters, the resumption of talks had undeniable political significance amidst efforts to smooth relations between the ruling Radicals and the opposition Peronist Party.

Relations between the administration and the labor sector have been at an impasse over the Radicals' proposal of a law to restructure union leadership, a move aimed at weakening the Peronists' traditional hold on the unions. The talks between CGT officials and Mucci were part of new administration initiatives to re-establish dialogue with the unionists.

Saul Ubaldini, a top Peronist union leader, told reporters before entering the meeting today that "we know the gravity of the economic and social situation, but we demand a path of social justice...and we want serious responses such as the workers' problems merit."

Last week, Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli held two private meetings with top Peronist leader Lorenzo Miguel, to discuss the possibility of a public meeting of Peronists and President Raul Alfonsin.

Some reports indicate that the administration is waiting for Peronist Party President Isabel Peron to return to Argentina from Sapin, since officials reportedly feel that the talks would be smoother with her than with Miguel. Peron, the widow of former President Juan Peron, for whom the Peronist Party is named, was overthrown from her presidential term in a 1976 coup which put the military in power until last December.

Alfonsin and Miguel have accused each other of slander during last year's election campaign. Alfonsin has also been harshly critical of the Peronist union leadership, of which Miguel is a key member. Miguel heads the Metalworkers' Union and the labor sector's Peronist organization, known as "The 62 Organizations."

The administration and the CGT leaders have apparently returned to the negotiating table due to feelings on both sides that a concerted effort by all sides is needed to maintain democracy in Argentina.

Alfonsin warned this week that Argentina is in danger of becoming as divided as Lebanon if the current stage of transition from military rule to democracy fails.

CGT ASKS FOR CHANGE IN SOCIOECONOMIC POLICY

PY112354 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2312 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM) -- Today the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) demanded that the government immediately change its socioeconomic policy and warned of the possibility of resorting to forceful means to cope with the critical situation the workers are enduring. "The dramatic situation the workers are enduring has been further aggravated by the government because of the latter's decision to have salaries readjusted quarterly, something which doubtlessly proves that the IMF has imposed its policy of recession and dependency," states a communique relaeased by the CGT at the end of a 3-hour meeting of its executive board, which was presided over by two of its four secretaries general, Saul Ubaldini and Osvaldo Borda, and was held in its headquarters located on 1482 Brasil Street. After stating that the CGT is calling upon all sectors seeking a true coordination to draft a national reconstruction program, a program which will not allow the country's dignity to be blemished again, the communique states that it is imperative that Law 14,250 on the labor-management arbitration boards become fully effective and that increases by decree, increases which do not cover the basic needs of the workers, be finally done away with.

"Labor conflicts are taking place daily in a desperate effort by the workers and their organizations to confront the critical situation they are enduring but they are faced with an alarming silence on the part of government officials.

This situation, which should call the government's attention to its policy mistakes, instead paradoxically accentuates these [mistakes], thus making the situation even worse," the communique adds.

The communique goes on to say that when the CGT predicted the conditions currently prevailing and asked for a clear-cut decision for the implementation of a homogeneous front to renegotiate the foreign debt, avoiding submission, and when it predicted the materialization of broad social outbreaks in the face of a stand such as the one taken by the government, the CGT was accused of being an obstructionist [petardista] and destabilizing organization. Today, in view of the proliferation of conflicts, we are forced to stress that we were not wrong.

The communique also states that it is necessary and imperative to implement as a top priority, an aggressive policy aimed at reactivating the national productive structure, the most efficient means of which is not continuing to use workers' wages as an economic variable, a variable which is subjected to an unbridled race to catch up with prices.

Lastly, the CGT demands that the course of the government's socioeconomic policy be changed immediately, because otherwise we will be faced with conditions which we have not pursued but which, in due time, we will meet, as the CGT has always done, in a responsible manner to defend the nation's and the workers' interests.

More on CGT Statement

PY112359 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Apr 84 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] [DYN-NA] -- The wave of labour conflicts continued yesterday, with 25,000 insurance workers completing a one-hour work stoppage, printers gearing up for a march on the Labour Ministry this afternoon, and the 250,000-strong Construction Workers' Union (UOCRA) preparing for a 24-hour strike tomorrow.

In a strongly worded response to last week's change in government wage policy, the unified CGT said workers had suffered "yet another blow." "Reality is proving that the destiny of Argentines continues depending on the international interests which have kept us, as a nation, on our knees." The unified CGT, announced simultaneously it would request a meeting with Labour Minister Antonio Mucci to discuss the wages issue.

Before yesterday afternoon's meeting of CGT leaders called to prepare the statement, unified CGT leaders Saul Ubaldini and Jorge Triaca met with Argentine Agricultural Federation (FAA) President Humberto Volando, with both sides afterwards agreeing to "unconditionally defend democracy for which both entities have fought relentlessly." The CGT and FAS also "agreed that the (superficial) adjustment in traditional policies will not push the country forward" and to "formulate a minimum agreement plan" in defence of democracy.

Unified CGT leaders meet today with members of the Buenos Aires Banking Association in their continued efforts to meet with labour groups and establish a "national front" in defence of democracy and workers' interests. In a gesture perhaps marking closer relations between the nation's labour groupings, the Union Liaison Board proposed that the unified CGT and the four union groups represented by the board jointly organize and participate in the traditional May 1 Labour Day festivities.

Printers today at 4pm march on the Labour Ministry in demand of wage hikes, while National Civil Registry employees are expected to utilize the same protest approach just hours earlier at 1pm. Train conductors will strike between 8am and 10am tomorrow nationwide, with all train services expected to be paralyzed during those hours. On Friday printshop workers are to begin their 24-hour strike, while bank employees will leave work a half-hour early to push their wage demands. The Airline Pilots' Union meanwhile threatened strike action before March 18 [as published] unless the sector is granted wage hikes and laid-off workers are rehired, and workers at the Bieckert brewery warned they would strike unless grated the 10.6 percent additional wage hike received by other brewery workers.

LABOR MINISTER MUCCI DENIES POLICY SPLIT

PY181520 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Apr 84 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- Embattled Labour Minister Antonio Mucci yesterday staved off persistent questioning as to reports he and two labour secretaries were divided on labour matters and that ministry resignations would follow. On another labour front a unified General Confederation of Labour (CGT) leader warned "direct action" would be taken in May if CGT wage demands were not met this month.

After meeting with President Raul Alfonsin for 40 minutes, a visibly upset Mucci told reporters the President "coincides" with the handling of the Labour Ministry. Rather than deny rumours that Labour Secretary Gabriel Matzkin and Under-Secretary Norberto Troglio would resign shortly, Mucci said just before leaving Government House, "I have nothing to confirm nor deny, thank you."

The President earlier in the day met with his personal delegate for union affiars, Hugo Barrionuevo, as well as presidential social affairs adviser Leonardo Di Mase, who press reports over the weekend said would replace Mucci as labour minister. Barrionuevo, for his part, said he presented Alfonsin with several alternative plans for union elections and denied Di Mase participated in the meeting. Di Mase, who reporters nonetheless said met with both Alfonsin and Barrionuevo, flatly denied rumours he would replace Mucci.

Union sources reported the President would meet again with Union Liaison Board members, with whom he lunched last Sunday, on Wednesday morning to discuss the group's plan for convoking union elections. The board has called for minority representatiion on union committees via an electoral system which would grant victors the secretary-general's seat, runners up the treasury post, and so on until all seats are filled.

Unified CGT directive council member Pedro Goyeneche yesterday said Alfonsin's Sunday meeting with board members "lacked respect" for the CGT. On a separate issue, Goyeneche doubted Wednesday's meeting of CGT secretaries general and delgates would result in a call for strike. "Should the dialogue with the government in April come to nothing," the textile union leader said, May would be the month of "direct action to demand wage increases."

On the strike front, Transport Workers' Union (UTA) chief Rene Azar said long distance bus drivers would walk off their jobs this Wednesday.

NUCLEAR WASTE PROJECT FACES STRONG OPPOSITION

PY192232 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] During the course of a meeting held at Chubut Government House in Rawson today, National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] officials submitted a comprehensive report on a project for construction of a nuclear waste storage facility in the vicinity of the city of Gastre, Gastre Department, in northern Chubut. The meeting was attended by Chubut Governor Atilio Viglione. The CNEA delegation was headed by Norberto Ciallello, chief of the technical managerial section of the department of security and radiological protection of the CNEA. Ciallello is in charge of the feasibility studies for the construction of the storage facility. The project has met with strong opposition from provincial officials, federal lawmakers, and professional associations in the region.

BORRAS CLOSES 1983-1984 ANTARCTIC CAMPAIGN

PY181910 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1833 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr (DYN) -- Defense Minister Raul Borras today presided over the closure of the 1983-1984 Antarctic campaign, and he visited the icebreaker Almirante Irizar accompanied by the chief of the Joint Staff and the chiefs of the Armed Forces staffs. The ceremony was held at Buenos Aires Navy Station, and during the ceremony, Captain Alejandro Giusti, the commander of the Antarctic Group, delivered a speech in which he noted the activities carried out during the Antarctic summer campaign. Later, Giusti invited Defense Minister Borras to visit the Almirante Irizar, which was moored with its crew parading on deck. The minister accepted the unscheduled invitation, and also included General Julio Fernandez Torres, chief of the Joint Staff, and the chiefs of staff of the three branches of the Armed Forces, Rear Admiral Ramon Arosa, General Jorge Arguindegui, and General Teodoro Waldner, in the invitation.

JUSTICIALIST PARTY PRECINCT OFFICES BOMBED

PY111940 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1115 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (DYN) -- The police today reported that the offices of a Justicialist Party precinct, which also housed a human rights committee, was almost entirely destroyed by a bomb explosion caused by unknown persons. The explosion took place at approximately 0200 this morning at the building located on Italia and Leon Gallardo Streets, in San Miguel, some 30 km northeast of Buenos Aires. So far no organization has claimed credit for the attack, and the police are trying to identify the attackers.

FORMER GENERAL SUAREZ MASON DECLARED 'REBEL'

PY181525 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Apr 84 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) Former First Army Corps commander Carlos Guillermo Suarez Mason was yesterdy formally declared a "rebel," after the deadline of his summons to a court-martial expired at midnight on Sunday, and is to be cashiered at the request of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, Army Chief of Staff Jorge Arguindegui confirmed yesterday following a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin.

However, Colonel Jorge Gonzalez Ramirez, the Supreme Council secretary, yesterday explained that, due to Easter, there was unlikely to be a Council quorum for the completion of the relevant formalities until April 23. The retired general had been summoned to testify in cases involving human rights violations during the "dirty war" campaign against leftwing subversion. Arguindegui yesterday denied having discussed the Suarez Mason case with Alfonsin. He also denied having discussed military spending or Armed Forces promotions with the president.

ALFONSIN: GOVERNMENT TO BOOST AGRICULTURE

PY090011 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Apr 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Casilda, Santa Fe, (DYN, NA) -- Speaking before 6,000 people from various political parties, President Raul Alfonsin launched the new harvest plan calling on his audience to "make a commitment to increase production...to overcome the consequences of inordinate indebtedness," and pledged the government's efforts to aid the recovery of agriculture-related industry.

Alfonsin announced that the price of wheat for the 1984-1985 harvest will be set at $a370 per 100 kilogrammes, to be adjusted for inflation "at harvest time," promising that the government will "provide loans, technology, marketing guarantees and adequate prices for agricultural inputs and products."

Within the framework of the "Production for Democracy" harvest plan, the President also announced that as from today the National Grain Board (JNG) will begin to purchase sorghum, corn, and soybean from northwestern provinces, with the cost of 500 kilometers discounted from the freight. Alfonsin also promised a 40 percent reduction in the cost of fertilizers for wheat producers, payable in kind from the forthcoming harvest -- i.e., 2.5 kilogrammes of wheat for every kilogramme of urea -- as well as a reduction of VAT applicable to herbicides from 18 to five percent.

In his speech, the President emphasized the role of technology in recent agricultural developments, and called on producers and marketers of agricultural inputs to help both agricultural producers and the government bring about the modernization of agriculture.

He also promised that "no farmer will be barred from sowing for lack of credit," and said that companies indebted to the Banco del la Nacion, "even those which have requested bankruptcy proceedings, must submit their recovery plans." These companies, Alfonsin said, will benefit from five-year rescheduling schemes and grace periods to be agreed upon.

The President announced that he had signed the decree for the normalization of the JNG, which will "continue with its active participation in exports, within the framework of mixed trade."

"Never again will Argentina turn its back on the country," Alfonsin vowed.

He promised to extend medical care and welfare schemes to small and medium-sized agricultural producers, and that "part of the export taxes from harvests of over 40,000,000 tons will be returned to the sector through special programmes aimed at encouraging capitalization, promoting technology, and increasing credit aid."

BRAZILIAN COFFEE IMPORT LICENSES SUSPENDED

PY152245 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Apr 84 p 21

[Text] Argentina has suspended the granting of import licenses for Brazilian coffee as a reprisal for the prohibition by the Banco do Brasil's Foreign Trade Department (CACEX) on importing Argentine apples and garlic. The measure was confirmed yesterday by sources at the Brazilian Coffee Institute's [IBC] Executive Board.

The IBC sources added that Argentina is one of the main world buyers of Brazilian coffee. Argentina has imported between 350,000 and 400,000 bags of coffee annually in tough competition with Colombia and Ecuador. Brazil, the sources added, is the main buyer of Argentine apples for yearly amounts totalling between $40 million and $60 million. Brazilian garlic purchases leave Argentina a yearly profit of $20 million, while Brazil obtains up to $28 million yearly from coffee purchases by Argentina.

As a result of pressure by Brazilian apple and garlic producers who have had good harvests, the IBC sources said, in February the CACEX began to suspend gradually the granting of way bills to import Argentine apples and garlic.

MINISTER GRINSPUN, URUGUAYAN COUNTERPART MEET

PY191230 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun and his Uruguayan counterpart, Alejandro Vegh-Villegas, have reviewed bilateral trade and the foreign debt situation of both countries. The meeting was held yesterday afternoon at the Economy Ministry and was a continuation of the dialogue the two ministers held in Punta del Este during the recent meeting of IDB governors.

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN TO VISIT SPAIN 11-15 JUNE

PY131900 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1654 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and wife will visit Spain 11-15 June this year at the invitation of King Juan Carlos de Borbon and Queen Sofia. This information was officially released at Government House today at noon. It was said that this information was released simultaneously in Madrid and Buenos Aires.

CORRECTION TO GENSCHER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

The following correction to the item subheaded "Holds Press Conference," published in the 19 April Latin America DAILY REPORT on page B 2, is supplied from Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish on 18 April:

Sixth paragraph reads: "Thank God we have a market economy," Genscher said, "and in view of this fact we cannot give instructions to private banks, we can only create confidence as a prior step to the negotiations and, in this respect, we will influence the Paris Club, where our country has weight, and we will give the green light to the private banks." (replacing paragraph)

CONTROVERSY CREATED OVER FRENCH ARMS SHIPMENT

Interior Miniscry on Arrival

PY191542 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1455 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 19 Apr (EFE) -- Interior Ministry sources have reported the arrival in this capital of a shipment of French weapons and a large supply of ammunition which will be used to fight the cocaine traffic.

The shipment arrived on board a French four-engine commercial plane which landed first in Santa Cruz, where it left part of the shipment, and then took off for this capital.

The fact that the boxes containing arms and ammunition were labeled "foodstuffs" provoked distrust among civic organizations which demanded an explanation from the government.

Interior Ministry Sub Secretary Gustavo Sanchez has said that the boxes had been labeled "foodstuffs" in order "to avoid bureaucratic delays at those airports where the plane had to stop."

Right-wing political sectors have linked the purchase of these weapons from France to the formation of alleged government-supported leftist paramilitary groups in several regions of the country.

Air Force Seizes Arms

PY191710 Paris AFP in Spanish 1549 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 19 Apr (AFP) -- Only after the Bolivian Air Force (FAB) took custody of part of the arms load brought in by a French plane did the civic organization Santa Cruz Youth Union leave the Santa Cruz Trompillo Airport early this morning. The members of the civic organization thought the plane carried food.

The DC-3 airplane, bearing French registry SFAE, left Paris and made a stopover at Cayenne in French Guyana. It landed for technical reasons in Santa Cruz, 1,000 km east of La Paz, the latter being its destination.

Leaders of the civil organization said that the load, which was estimated at more than 20,000 kg, had been declared to be food for the victims of floods which recently affected Bolivia.

However, 148 crates containing modern machine guns and ammunition were found when the plane's bay was opened.

In its first flight, the plane had brought 300 boxes to La Paz, and it was detained by the Santa Cruz Youth Union when it returned to Santa Cruz on a second trip.

The Santa Cruz Military Aviation School commander, General Alfredo Jaldin, said that the arms were to be delivered to the Army, while Interior Ministry Sub Secretary Gustavo Sanchez Salazar said that the machine guns (some 2,000) had been purchased by state security agencies.

The arms which could not be brought to La Paz were seized by the Santa Cruz Military Aviation School. Defense Minister Colonel Manuel Cardenas Mallo also intervened so the arms would be delivered to the Armed Forces under existing legal provisions.

The Santa Cruz Youth Union was surprised at the fact that the machine guns were not acquired through a government-to-government negotiation, but brought over under the claim of being food.

The Santa Cruz newspaper said that possibly this shipment is a donation from the French Government in exchange for the handover of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie by the Bolivian Government on 4 February 1983 for crimes against humanity.

"No Irregularities"

PY191835 Paris AFP in Spanish 1738 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 19 Apr (AFP) -- Bolivian Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata today stated that the arms introduced into the country yesterday by a French plane are intended for use by the antidrug traffic forces. Conservative political sectors had speculated that these arms would be used by leftist subversives.

At the end of a meeting with Armed Forces Commander General Alfredo Villarroel and Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo, Alvarez Plata said that the arms were introduced into the country in keeping with legal procedures and there are no irregularities involved.

AFP was told that the news about the retention of the French DC-8 [as received] plane caused uneasiness within the Army, where the prevailing opinion is that the machine guns and ammunition should be kept by the Armed Forces.

Army, Police Squabble

PY200256 Paris AFP in Spanish 2329 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 19 Apr (AFP) -- It was learned here today from military sources that the Armed Forces commands will not allow the weapons and munitions that were brought into the country yesterday by a French plane to be handed over to the country's police. In turn, the police command has made it known that it will demand that the government hand over that war materiel to the police.

It has been reported that the cargo consists of 2,000 9 mm submachine guns with folding stocks of French manufacture, which arrived on board a DC-8 cargo plane with French registration, SFAE-4818. It has been established that it is a donation that French President Francois Mitterrand promised Bolivia during the visit he paid to his colleague Hernan Siles Zuazo in March 1983.

Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo has explained that the crates containing the weapons were marked as food so that there would be no trouble at the airports where the plane had to refuel. Cardenas Mallo added that the materiel, which is for the police, is now to be found in warehouses of the Bolivian Air Force (FAB) while the red tape, which will permit its transfer to the state's security organization, is cleared up.

Moreover, military circles have reiterated that the submachine guns will definitely remain in the hands of the Army.

In this respect, Deputy Guillermo Fortun, a member of the conservative Nationalist Democratic Alliance (ADN) -- that is headed by General Hugo Banzer Suarez -- has told the press that his party will demand that all the documentation authorizing the arrival of the weapons be made public.

He recalled that last year the ADN had charged that the handing over to France of the Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, which occurred on 4 February 1983, had been made in exchange for arms that could have been meant for leftist subversive groups. In answering this charge, Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has pointed out that the 2,000 submachine guns are not sufficient to arm the 12,000 policemen that are in the country.

He also said that at the current time the Army has loaned 500 rifles to the police and that if the Army insists in not allowing the French donation to reach the planned destination the task of fighting drug traffic and the paramilitary groups organized during the military dictatorships will be harmed.

COB POSTPONES FOURTH CONGRESS UNTIL 11 JUNE

PY191317 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Executive Board of the Bolivian Workers Federation has resolved to postpone the fourth congress of the labor movement which was to be held on 1 May. The postponement is due to the new situation which has been created by the promulgation of economic measures on 12 April by the government of the Popular and Democratic Unity which is headed by President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

This congress has been rescheduled for 11 June 1984 by the Executive Board of the Bolivian Workers Federation.

REPORTAGE ON IMPOSITION OF EMERGENCY MEASURE

Outline of Measures

PY190500 Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0330 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Today's newspapers will underline the fact that the federal government has decreed emergency measures which cover the Federal District, Goiania, and nine other districts in Goias State. These districts are: Formosa, Cristalina, Luziania, Ipameri, Catalao, Anapolis, Itumbiara, Pires do Rio, and Jatai. Most of these districts are located in Brasilia's so-called geoeconomic area.

The emergency measures, which go into effect today at 0000 and are to last until 17 June, allow the following restrictions on public freedom according to Article 156, paragraph 2, of the Constitution: detention in buildings not used for common criminals; home raids and detentions; suspension of the right to assemble; intervention in professional organizations; telecommunications censorship; use or temporary occupation of the premises of autonomous enterprises, public enterprises, corporations with diversified interests, utility concessionaires [words indistinct].

The secretary general of the Justice Ministry [words indistinct] radio and television. Television programs which are videotaped will be subject to prior censorship by the censorship division of the federal police. Live television and radio broadcasts will be censored by the (?DERVEL) [expansion unknown].

In the message sent to Congress, President Figueiredo explains that the adoption of these measures is aimed at preventing acts of intimidation and coercion against congressmen. Figueiredo regarded the actions of the demonstrators who are heading toward the Federal District as responsible for the constraint that is being increasingly observed against the independence of Congress and even at the homes of congressmen.

it is worth recalling that the emergency measures now adopted by the federal government must not be mistaken for a state of emergency, as was ventured in political circles in Sao Paulo. Therefore, in this case, what is provided for under Article 47 of the Constitution is not applied. This article says in its second paragraph that the Constitution may not be amended while a state of siege or a state of emergency is in effect.

At any rate, since these are adopted emergency measures and not a state of emergency, the debate and vote next Wednesday on the Dante de Oliveira amendment, requesting that direct elections be held now, is guaranteed.

Emergency measures were introduced in the Brazilian Constitution on 1 January 1979, as part of the steps to safeguard the [word indistinct] institutional No 5/5, now defunct. Emergency measures were enforced for the first time in Brasilia in October 1983, when Decree 2,065 on the reduction of salary readjustments upon demands made by the IMF was voted on. During the time of the emergency measures, which were suspended on 17 December, only one incident occurred; the headquarters of the Brazilian bar association was occupied.

General Milton Cruz, Planalto military commander, has been again designated to enforce the emergency measures.

Text of Decree

PY200245 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 84 p 2

["Text" of Decree No 89566 imposing emergency measures, signed by President Joao Figueiredo on 18 April]

[Text] Whereas,

It is necessary to preserve public order in the Federal District, which is threatened by serious disturbances;

It is also necessary to prevent those disturbances from spreading into Goias State districts;

The president of the Republic, in keeping with the powers conferred upon him by Article 81, section III, and taking into account the terms of Article 155 of the Constitution, hereby decrees:

Article 1. Emergency measures, which shall be adopted in keeping with the existing needs, are hereby enacted in the Federal District and in the Formosa, Cristalina, Luziania, Ipameri, Cataloa, Goiania, Anapolis, Itumbiara, Pires do Rio, and Jatai districts of Goias State.

Paragraph 1. The measures established by this article are those referred to in clauses B, C, D, E, and G of the second paragraph of Article 156 of the Constitution.

Paragraph 2. The measure referred to in clause F of the second paragraph of Article 156 will apply only to the telecommunications sector.

Paragraph 3. Videotape recordings done in the area affected by the current emergency measures shall be scanned by the competent agency of the Federal Police Department before being broadcast.

Paragraph 4. Nothing shall be reported [nenhuma transmissao oral] through radio stations without prior authorization from the competent agency of the Ministry of Communications.

Paragraph 5. The competent agency of the Ministry of Communications shall establish the regulations for compliance with the terms of paragraph 4.

Article 2. The head of the Planalto Military Command is hereby designated as the officer in charge of the enactment of the measures established in this decree.

Article 3. The measures established in Article 1 of this decree shall be in force between 19 April and 17 June 1984.

Article 4. This decree shall come into force on the date of its publication.

Brasilia, 18 April 1984, 163d year of independent life, and 96th year of republican life

[Signed] Joao Figueiredo

President Informs Congress

PY200100 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 84 p 2

[Text] Brasilia -- Minister Leitao de Abreu, chief of the Civilian Cabinet, has sent the presidential message informing Congress of the imposition of the emergency measures referred to by Article 155 of the Constitution to the secretaries of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, Fernando Lyra and Henrique Santillo, respectively. The presidential message reads:

"I have the honor of informing Your Excellencies that today, in keeping with the first paragraph of Article 155 of the Constitution, I decree the enactment of the emergency measures foreseen in clauses B, C, D, E, and G of paragraph 2 of Article 156 of the Constitution in the Federal District and in the Formosa, Cristalina, Luziania, Ipameri, Catalao, Gioania, Anapolis, Itumbiara, Pires do Rio, and Jatai districts of Goias State. I also decreed that the measure foreseen in clause F of the above article of the Constitution be limited to the telecommunications sector, to prevent this sector from being used as a tool for restricting freedom of expression during the congressional session.

"This decision is based on the following reasons:

"The Federal District, where the three branches of government are headquartered, has been the target of the action of demonstrators who have arrived here in large numbers after being recruited in several areas of the country. This action tends to intimidate and pressure congressmen and prevents the judicial branch from performing freely. This situation has become increasingly intense at the Congress building and even in congressmen's houses, where the lawmakers and their families have been the object of verbal aggression.

"In addition, the marches of demonstrators who have begun to hinder congressional activities originate with movements which are openly sponsored by members of organizations that have been outlawed on the grounds that they are ideologically incompatible with our constitutional order.

"Therefore, in keeping with Article 155 and with the subsequent articles of the Constitution, it is imperative to impose emergency measures in the Federal District and in the abovementioned districts, according to the terms established in the decree that I have just signed.

"Brasilia, 18 April 1984

[Signed] "Joao Figueiredo"

MP's Under Army Command

PY192350 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 84 p 3

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- President Joao Figueiredo, in a decree that was signed yesterday, has commissioned the Military Police of Goias State and the Federal District. Thus, they will be under the direct command of the Planalto Military Command while the emergency measures are in force.

In another two decrees, President Figueiredo has ordered that Military Police Colonel Alvaro Alves Junior remain as commander of the Military Police of Goias State and that Military Police Colonel Hugo Guimaraes Costa remain as commander of the Military Police of the Federal District.

Following is the decree that commissions the Military Police:

"Decree No 89,567, 18 April 1984

"It commissions the Military Police of Goias State of the Federal District and it includes other measures.

"The president, exercising the powers given him in Article 81, Clause III of the Constitution, together with Article 3, Letter D of Decree 667 of 2 July 1969, which was modified by Decree-Law 2,010 of 12 January 1983; Article 1, Clauses 2 and 3, Paragraph 2; and the sole paragraph of Article 7 of Decree 88,540 of 20 July 1983, decrees: [as published]

"Article 1. The Military Police of Goias State and of the Federal District are hereby commissioned as of the date that this Decree is published.

"Article 2. During the period that they are commissioned, the Military Police that are mentioned in the previous article will be subject to what is established in Decree 88,540 of 20 July 1983.

"Article 3. This decree will go into force on the date that it is published.

"Brasilia, 18 April 1984, the 163d year of independence and the 96th year of the Republic

[Signed] "Joao Figueiredo"

PDS Hails Move

PY200152 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 84 p 2

[Text] Brasilia -- Yesterday until 1900, when he hastily left his office and traveled to Porto Alegre, Deputy Nelson Marchezan was not able to confirm that emergency measures had been indeed decreed. Marchezan spent all day long denying that he had been informed on this matter. In the afternoon, Marchezan called Minister [as published] Leitao de Abreu's office and he once again received a denial as a response.

President of the Senate Moacyr Dalla was informed about the emergency measures by the Planalto Palace at 1930, at which time De Abreu told him about them.

President of the Chamber [of Deputies] Flavio Marcilio said that "there will be no hindrance for congressmen to freely voice their beliefs, since by resorting to the emergency measures the government actually aimed at ensuring such a freedom by preventing eventually riotous rallies from disturbing the smooth functioning of Congress."

Deputy Hugo Mardini (PDS-RS) said that the emergency measures have defeated all of President Figueiredo's goals to seek a negotiated political solution, goals which were stated on a draft bill that Figueiredo submitted to Congress this week.

PMDB 'Ashamed' of Measures

PY200213 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 84 p 2

[Text] In an official note that was released last night, Federal Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party], stated that "the nation is ashamed" with the emergency measures that have been implemented by the government. Following is the text of the note:

"An indignant and ashamed nation denounces the dicatorial action with which it has just been affronted.

"Yes it is dictatorial, because the arbitrariness of one man, he who holds the power in his hands, has eliminated the fundamental rights and guarantees of citizens and institutions. This dictatorial action has been brutally perpetrated by one person against Congress without the latter being able to debate it and reject it, just as though the state of siege was in effect.

"It is a totalitarian action because it usurps, among others, the citizen's right to travel to Brasilia, to meet peacefully, and to be informed by radio and television about matters that are linked to his survival.

"The argument for direct presidential elections has finally been won. In no decent democracy could a chief of state that has been elected by the people carry out such a truculent action.

"On 25 April the nation will come to know the senators and deputies who are at the service of the people and those who are at the service of arbirariness."

MALUF FOR ELECTION PROPOSAL, EMERGENCY MEASURES

PY201158 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Another statement favoring the government's proposal was made today by Deputy Paulo Salim Maluf. He said that to elect a president now by the direct ballot system would be equivalent to electing a dictator for 6 years. The former Sao Paulo governor, who not long ago stated that he did not want the presidential term reduced, now says that Figueiredo's amendment will permit a democrat to be elected for 4 years.

Maluf also thinks that the issuance of emergency measures was the right move, since the caravans organized by the opposition would mean unacceptable pressure capable of influencing the congressmen.

SWEDISH KING, QUEEN END VISIT; AGREEMENT SIGNED

PY151850 Paris AFP in Spanish 0238 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 14 Apr (AFP) -- King of Sweden Carl Gustaf and his wife, Queen Silvia, have concluded their 15-day visit to Brazil and left Rio de Janeiro last night for Stockholm. During their official 1-week stay the Swedish royalty were guests of the Brazilian Govenment. Brazil and Sweden also signed a new agreement on economic, industrial, and technical cooperation to increase trade.

BRIEFS

DIRECT DIALING SYSTEM EXPANDED -- Communications Minister Haroldo de Mattos has dedicated an international direct dialing system joining Brazil with the ROK, Ivory Coast, Guyana, French Guiana, Yugoslavia, Senegal, Egypt, and Angola. [Summary] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Apr 84 PY]

CNT CALLS WORKERS, PEOPLE TO HOLD RALLY 1 MAY

PY192211 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] The National Workers Command (CNT) has called all the rural and urban workers, and all the people, to celebrate international labor day on 1 May. This is how the CNT call reads, a call which was released by the CNT at a press conference held this morning.

Roberto Carvajal, a leader of the Confederation of Copper Workers and a CNT member, said the following:

[Begin Carvajal recording] Every 1 May, we, the workers, recall our martyrs, past and present, to bear testimony of their presence among us and of the continuity of a struggle which will not end as long as there is poverty and oppression. On this 1 May we find ourselves amid the worst crisis in the history of Chile. [Word indistinct] and rallies threaten to destroy the foundations of our national spirit. [end recording]

The CNT call goes on to say that the workers and the people have been the ones most adversely affected during the present regime. However, the call adds that the great days of peaceful protest have hinted at a path toward our liberation, a path which we will walk with a broader and deeper spirit. The CNT call goes on to say the following:

[Begin Carvajal recording] We call upon [the people] to turn this 1 May into a new proof of our true mobilization capabilities and as a preliminary step for future actions. We call upon workers, and all the social and political forces, to participate in a great rally to be held in O'Higgins Park on 1 May at 1000 to prove the spiritual fortitude of our people, a fortitude which will never bend to the use of force. Our people's choice, a clear-cut and well defined one, is that of building a future with peace, democracy, and freedom. [end recording]

During the press conference, the CNT leaders said that they hope to obtain the proper permit and that their application has already been forwarded to the chief of the emergency zone, Major General Rene Vidal.

It was also reported that an application has been submitted asking for permission to hold a CNT general meeting in the Carlos Cariola Theater on 28 April.

SOCIALIST PARTY TO HOLD RALLY IN SANTIAGO 26 APR

PY192209 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Leaders of the socialist bloc have reported that they have already requested permission from the authorities to stage a rally scheduled to take place within the next few days. Manuela Robles has information concerning the activities of the socialist bloc, for the Cooperativa newscast.

[Begin Robles recording] Good afternoon. Leaders of the Socialist Party have announced at a press conference that a rally will be held in the Carlos Cariola Theater on 26 April to celebrate the founding anniversary of the Socialist Party. They have also said that permission has already been requested from the proper authorities within the time limits set forth in the emergency edicts, which were issued when the emergency zone was created, and that a rally will be held on that date to recall the record of the Socialist Party. [end recording]

ECONOMY MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ECONOMIC POLICY

PY181558 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Apr 84 pp D1, D2

[Interview with Economy Minister Modesto Collados by Raquel Correa -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Correa] If you had to choose between capitalism and socialism, which would you prefer?

[Collados] I would choose a social market economy. I believe this is the best system for the Western world at this time. It is neither capitalist nor socialist.

[Correa] Are you referring to the economic model that has been in force in Chile until now?

[Collados] I believe that this model has been implemented in Chile in an exaggerated manner. Not only were certain basic principles implemented, but also certain policies were represented as belonging to the model, but I believe they did not. From the general principles I defined in my speech on Thursday, one is free to choose a wide range of policies. But one has to base one's actions on specific and practical experience: A doctrine that has never been implemented and that is only valid for theoreticians is of no use to us. I am interested in a doctrine that is valid for people. I follow the economic model that Adenauer implemented in Germany.

[Correa] Does this mean a yes to Adenauer and a no to Friedman?

[Collados] Yes, yes to Adenauer, and no to Friedman and Marx.

[Correa] Many people blame the Chicago boys for our disastrous economic situation. What responsibility do you attribute to those who were in charge of the economy for so many years?

[Collados] During a period the economy was handled in a certain way because of the serious situation we were experiencing. But international recession is also to blame.... During the last year, from March 1983 to March 1984, certain reorganizations and rectifications were carried out, but these were insufficient. If reorganizations and rectifications were carried out, it is because inappropriate measures were enforced and because there were some disorders.

[Correa] Is the reorganization stage over, have we started the reactivation stage?

[Collados] The reorganization stage is not over yet. We inherited a few things: The foreign debt issue is not completely resolved; neither is that of the domestic debt, nor that of the intervention of banks. We still have to reorganize a few things, make some changes, and, of course, we must achieve the complete reactivation of the economy.

[Correa] Those who blame the free market economy for the present economic problems wonder if there will be any real changes, since General Pinochet and the new economy and finance ministers insist that there will be no changes in the economic model. Sir, what people want to know is whether we will continue with the same economic model.

[Collados] First we must see what is understood by model and what is understood by policy. I have clearly stated that the policy has not changed. I have stated that the government enforces a social market policy. I am not going to work within the framework of a certain model, since this is a dehumanized view of things.

Under no circumstance will I be subjected to such a theoretical and artificial structure as a model. It would be like being voluntarily locked in a cage. I am quite aware that this is a social market economy, but under no circumstances am I following a given model.

[Correa] You have pointed out that the main priority is to decrease unemployment. Don't you think that the goal to decrease the unemployment rate to 4 percent is too optimistic, since traditionally the unemployment rate in our country is 6 percent?

[Collados] I have been very specific and have said very little since I assumed my duties, and I have said nothing in this regard. I told you so last September when I discussed the 3-year housing plan. However, I do not think this would be impossible, although I have not said so. To reduce unemployment in 3 years to a 4-percent level is a goal I would like to achieve. I do not think that it will be impossible for us to reduce the unemployment rate from 15 percent to 12 percent this year. Moreover, if the economic situation is good, and if we have a good copper price and good international interest rates, I do not think it will be impossible to reduce this rate from 12 percent to 8 percent and from 8 percent to 4 percent. But no one can demand anything of me in this regard, since, as economy minister, I have not promised anything.

[Correa] The main question is, where are you going to get the resources to reactivate the economy, to create more jobs?

[Collados] There are three kinds of resources: foreign monetary resources, achieved through savings and investments; physical resources; and human resources. At present, monetary resources are scarce, but they will nevertheless come. Last week, IDB officials offered me an additional $130 million for programs to create jobs. As people see how seriously we are working, that we are making an effort to reduce domestic spending, then foreign resources will roll in. Of course, this will not be the case at the beginning....

[Correa] What are you going to start with at the beginning?

[Collados] With the resources we have at hand. There is a national budget, and I can use the existing funds in a way that creates more jobs.

[Correa] If we are to achieve an economic reactivation, won't we have to borrow more than the $780 million that [former Finance Minister] Caceres obtained, since this amount will not even cover the interest rates on our foreign debt?

[Collados] This is not a question of quantity but of quality management, since the issue does not necessarily depend on funds. This is another myth, the myth of "where do we get the money." Perhaps it is not a question of "where" we get the money from, but how we are going to use what we have got to reactivate the economy. It is up to me to decide how we are going to use the available resources to achieve an economic reactivation. I am good at that. I can assure you that the World Bank and the IDB will offer us money only when they see that we are capable of handling things. After domestic savings and after we are offered foreign loans, we will have foreign investment. But, of course, all this depends on something that is out of my hands -- politics.

[Correa] Don't you think that a change of government is necessary to attract foreign investments?

[Collados] It depends. Foreign investments can be attracted, if the change of government is done in an orderly manner, in a peaceful and constitutional manner. But if there is violence, there won't be any avalanche of foreign investments; on the contrary.

[Correa] Do you believe that an economic reactivation is feasible within the rigid framework of the IMF renegotiations?

[Collados] This is something to be discussed by the finance minister.

[Correa] But what do you think about it? Don't you think it is too rigid?

[Collados] We are trying to get more flexible measures, except for issues related to the balance of payments and reserves.

[Correa] How about the 4.6-percent government deficit...?

[Collados] This is one of the things we will have to do something about. It is unjust. No one knows why, but more is demanded from Chile than from other countries. The finance minister is scheduled to leave for the United States on Tuesday, and he plans to mainly discuss the deficit percentage with IMF officials.

[Correa] Do you agree that the government should guarantee the debt of the private sector?

[Collados] Those commitments that have been signed by the proper authorities will be fully kept.

[Correa] It has been suggested that imports should be limited to finance the economic reactivation....

[Collados] In general terms, we shall continue to enforce the same foreign trade policy.

[Correa] Another way of obtaining resources is through taxes. Will you be in favor of a tax increase during the present crisis?

[Collados] I am not in favor of increasing taxes under any circumstances at this time. There is even a draft law to benefit those who pay taxes. But, of course, if the situation becomes very difficult, we shall obviously have to increase them.... But if I have to choose between increasing taxes on luxury products or tariffs on imported goods, I would rather increase taxes on luxury products.

[Correa] What system would you adopt regarding exchange policy?

[Collados] We shall continue to implement the same exchange policy of a fixed dollar rate, based on the difference between domestic inflation and international inflation. It is the most rational policy.

[Correa] Are you in favor of a more active monetary policy than the prsent one?

[Collados] Well, the monetary policy has to be handled on a day-to-day basis in relation with other economic aspects. It also depends on the agreement that is reached with the IMF regarding the government deficit.

[Correa] But at any rate you are in favor of issuing more money, right?

[Collados] The monetary policy is an issue that is up to the Finance Ministry. But I believe that this is also an issue that must be handled in a pragmatic manner.

[Correa] Are you in favor of fixing prices to curb inflation?

[Collados] This is going to be a very short answer: No, I am not.

[Correa] How about the salary policy...?

[Collados] I believe that it is not fitting for the government to intervene in salary matters in the private sector. But we will surely have to intervene in the government sector in the future, and that will set certain guidelines for the private sector.

[Correa] If we are to achieve an economic reactivation, there must be an increase in production, and this means that there must be an increase in sales. How are you going to increase sales if there is no increase in production?

[Collados] People are beginning to earn more. We are witnessing a gradual economic growth. This is why I believe that we will achieve an economic reactivation and that as a result of this there will be an increase of real salaries. I am absolutely convinced of this. If this were not the case, we would not be handling the economy correctly, since our ultimate goal is to improve the salary situation.

[Correa] Are you in favor of fixing interest rates?

[Collados] We are using a system to encourage fixed interest rates. I believe it is a good system.

[Correa] Should there be fixed interest rates for loans, just as there are for deposits?

[Collados] We shall study the matter further.

[Correa] What do you think about Chile's return to the Andean Pact?

[Collados] I believe that this should be studied very closely. In general terms, I am going to be more concerned about domestic matters. The economy minister's position in this regard is the following: First we should get the country moving. Once we have solved our domestic problems, we can talk to others. I am not an enthusiast for common markets or pacts.

[Correa] What is your position regarding economic groups?

[Collados] I believe they did not help the development of the country.

[Correa] Are you in favor of continuing or of stopping the campaign against them?

[Collados] I would rather adopt a pragmatic position. The main thing that should be taken into account is the safeguarding of national interests. This is what I will always keep in mind and I am going to act in keeping with national interests. I am against witch hunts.

150,000 JOBS PER YEAR NEEDED TO MEET GOAL

WA161742 Rome IPS in English 16 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, April 10 (IPS) -- Chile will have to create 519,600 new jobs in the next three years to meet the military government's new goal of four percent unemployment by 1987, according to a study released today by ECONOMIA Y NEGOCIOS, an economic publication. Economy Minister Modesto Collados said last week that the government aims to lower unemployment, which is now officially set at 14.8 percent, to four percent in three years.

Independent surveys have estimated the unemployment rate at over 30 percent. Trade unions put it as 35 percent, counting workers in government job plans as out of work, since their monthly pay does not cover more than two week's basic living expenses. The government's national statistics and census institute considers those workers employed.

The ECONOMIA Y NEGOCIOS study puts Chile's present work force at 3,678,600. Of these, 3,149,500 are employed, the study reported, although some of them work in government-subsidized job programs which pay only $25-$35 a month. The work force is estimated to be growing by 1.2 percent annually, so that the working population will reach 3,882,000 by the year 1986. The total of employed people will have to rise to 3,669,100 to reach four percent unemployment, acccording to ECONOMIA Y NEGOCIOS.

APSI DIRECTOR: GOVERNMENT HIDING IRREGULARITIES

PY180203 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The new restrictions on APSI magazine which prohibit it from publishing domestic news was levied at the very time when democratic and independent press media were getting ready to reveal irregularities in which very high-ranking government officials are involved, according to Marcelo Contreras, director of APSI, who held a press conference after being notified that the government had restricted the type of material he can publish and the periodicity of the issues. Contreras said that for 8 months the magazine had been circulating, carrying domestic and international issues, and that the CNI [National Intelligence Center], the government house, and other government institutions had subscribed to it.

[Begin Contreras recording] No one could accuse us, as the government is trying to do now, that we have paid no heed to a prior court ruling, because the fact that the government had allowed the publication of the magazine for 8 months with its current material is because it felt, just as we did, that the situation which had given rise to the court ruling had been overcome. [end recording]

Contreras further said that the measure which the government is seeking to implement now, is part of an overall atmosphere of severe restrictions on public rights and freedom, especially the freedom of information.

[Begin Contreras recording] The prior censorship to which all opposition news media are subjected is part of the effort which the government is making to take away what little freedom has been gained, thus making clear its decision to terminate the political opening and harass all those who, like our magazine, have contributed our opinions in a serious and responsible manner without ever giving cause to lawsuits. [end recording]

The director of APSI said that he felt that there were very specific reasons for applying censorship to opposition and dissident news media.

[Begin Contreras recording] It is worth pointing out that this new set of restrictions is being imposed at the very time when the democratic and independent press was getting ready to reveal irregularities which jeopardize the standing of the highest-ranking officials of the country. Needless t- say that any attempt at concealing these irregularities through prior censorship or any other arbitrary measures such as those implemented against APSI is absolutely useless. The events have already become public knowledge and sooner or later the officials involved will be forced to give an explanation to the nation. [end recording]

The management of APSI said that they have been unable to procure a copy of the decree signed by Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa. Once they obtain it, a plea for a court injunction will be filed.

PRIOR CENSORSHIP ON CAUCE MAGAZINE CONDEMNED

PY112344 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Excerpts] In a letter addressed to Gonzalo Figueroa, the president of the La Republica publishing corporation, the national press association has strongly condemned the government's decision to impose prior censorship on CAUCE magazine. The association noted that Decree 320, which was issued under a state of emergency, does not authorize prior censorship. The association also said that the decree does not empower the director of DINACOS [National Social Communications Agency] to make such decisions, which violate basic rights.

GOVERNMENT TO SUE ANALISIS MAGAZINE DIRECTOR

PY120131 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The executive board of ANALISIS magazine, headed by Fernando Castillo Velasco, filed a court injunction in favor of the magazine director this morning. Minister Secretary General of Government Alfonso Marquez de la Plata announced a few minutes ago that legal action will be taken against the magazine. He also ruled out that ANALISIS director Juan Pablo Cardenas will be expelled.

Journalists Demand Cardenas' Release

PY162210 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Eighty journalists staged a march between the public penitentiary and the headquarters of their journalists association demanding freedom of expression and the release of the publisher of the magazine ANALISIS. The journalists, after visiting Juan Pablo Cardenas, began their march carrying a banner that stated: Freedom for Juan Pablo Cardenas. Carabineros, who were following the journalists in a van, confiscated the banner and obliged the demonstrators to walk on the sidewalk, stopping them from demonstrating along pedestrian streets. The journalists were detoured to Catedral St, in the direction of Monategui St. [recording of chants, slogans] The journalists then peacefully left the premises of their association. Carabineros did not intervene.

REGIME ASKED TO FREE NEWSMEN, LIFT CENSORSHIP

PY130233 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Chilean Press Association has informed the IAPA meeting which is convening in Jamaica about the serious events which have affected the Chilean press.

The announcement was made at a press conference by Oriana Zorrilla and Max (Lolie), members of the metropolitan chapter of the Press Association. They read a statement released by the National Council of the Press Association, which the metropolitan chapter has endorsed.

The statement says that government decrees, prior censorship, and other restrictions imposed on the press, detentions of journalists -- such as the case of Juan Pablo Cardenas -- and the confiscation of magazines, are creating an atmosphere which makes national coexistence even more difficult. The statement adds that these restrictions imposed on the press are provoking not only reactions from the press, but also from the people whose right to receive sound, diversified information has been curtailed. Thus the National Council of the Press Association has decided to ask the government to drop the charges it has brought against journalist Juan Pablo Cardenas and to repeal the unconstitutional prior censorship.

NAVY EXPLAINS CLOSING OF RADIO TALCAHUANO

PY161505 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 9 Apr 84 p 42

[By Mario Aravena M.]

[Text] Talcahuano -- The Chilean Navy, through its commander of the Second Naval Zone in Talcahuano, said in an official communique that in 1980 the Maritime Governorship notified the general manager of Radio Talcahuano that this radio station was illegally occupying Navy property in Rocuant Island, where the station has its transmitter and antenna.

The note released to the press says: "In relation to the measures adopted to normalize the illegal occupation by Radio Talcahuano, this Navy Command reports: 1. Since 30 June 1970, Radio Talcahuano has had its transmitter and antenna without legal authorization on government property in Rocuant Island. Decree 102 of 3 February 1966 authorizing the installation of the radio equipment expired on 30 June 1970." The second point says that "since that date the radio station has not made any payments for the use of this property. 3. On 20 June 1980, the Maritime Governorship of Talcahuano notified the radio station's general manager of the illegal occupation of the property, that no payment had been made, that the property must be vacated, and that payment must be made. In view of this notification the radio station requested on 30 June 1980 permission to continue the illegal occupation. 4. As time passed and Radio Talcahuano did not solve the illegal situation, the Maritime Governorship on 11 December 1980 -- in accordance with Article 56 of the Maritime Concessions General Regulations, approved by Decree 340 of 1960 -- ordered the beach illegally occupied by the radio station be vacated by requesting from the Regional Intendency the cooperation of the police."

The Navy communique goes on to say that in view of the negotiations carried out by Radio Talcahuano with the Regional Intendency, the radio station on 27 January 1981 was given a grace period of 90 days to transfer its equipment to another site. The communique also says that when the radio antenna fell some time ago, the radio station set up a temporary antenna and later a permanent antenna in the same place without the authorization of the maritime authority. The communique adss: "Despite this situation, Radio Talcahuano continued to illegally occupy this property and avoided paying approximately 5 million pesos for the use of the property. Therefore, in compliance with the legal regulations established by Decree 340 of 1960 of the Ministry of National Defense, a request was submitted to the State Defense Council to start legal action to obtain the back payments owed since 30 June 1970 in addition to obtain the clearing of this government property."

ISRAELI COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER VISITS SANTIAGO

PY122304 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Communications are the mirror of countries, especially when two countries are separated by a great distance, Israeli Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said in Santiago. The Israeli Government official is touring Latin America to establish contacts with Jewish communities. So far he has visited Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Chile. In Santiago, Minister Tzipori met with Transport and Telecommunications Minister Enrique Escobar with whom he established a possible agreement to operate a direct dialing phone system between Chile and Israel.

As for the dissemination of information, Minister Tzipori said that, in Chile, just like in his country, the reality depicted by the international communications media is different. He then added through a translator:

[Begin Tzipori recording] If I were to base my judgment on the Chilean situation through images shown on television or information aired on radio, I would not come to Chile, because I would only think that there are shootouts on the streets all the time. The same thing happens with the State of Israel because, seen through the communications media, the Palestine terrorists are serving a just cause and are, for that reason, persecuted by Israel. But neither Chile's nor Israel's images are correct. [end recording]

The Israeli minister later noted that his country is interested in cooperating with Chile in the communications field, which is fundamental to progress.

[Begin Tzipori recording] Our responsibility is to offer a good and effective communications service that can be useful in the economic and [word indistinct] fields so as to make possible the improvement of the standard of living in the two countries. This is very important and, as I understand it, our systems are well developed, and so we would be willing to cooperate with Chile in the field of communications. [end recording]

Changing subjects, the Israeli minister referred to the case of the high-ranking Nazi officer, Walter Rauff, explaining that for a long time his country has been requesting the extradition or expulsion of this German officer.

[Begin Tzipori recording] The State of Israel from the time of its independence has followed a policy of trying to find and apprehend those criminals who are responsible for the death of 6 million Jews. From the moment we learned that Mr Rauff was in Chile, we began initiatives to that effect in several ways. But only lately has the question came into the public light. [end recording]

The minister added that this question will never interfere with the relations between the two countries, which have always been cordial.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO ATTEND ALADI MEETING 25 APR

PY171520 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle will leave for Uruguay 25 April to attend the ALADI plenary session. This information was given to the press by the foreign minister after a meeting with the chief of state.

PRESIDENT OSVALDO HURTADO TO VISIT PRC

PA190349 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Report by Salomon Flores]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has reported that at the invitation of the PRC president, Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado will pay a state visit to that eastern country 14 19 March. [as heard] The Foreign Ministry added that President Hurtado's visit will be in accordance with the austerity policy that the government is practicing. As a result, President Hurtado will travel from Quito to New York on Ecuatoriana de Aviacion and from New York to Beijing on [name indistinct], a Chinese airline. The Foreign Ministry noted that President Hurtado's visit to the PRC is the first ever by an Ecuadoran president.

Diplomatic relations between the PRC and Ecuador were established in January 1981. As members of the Nonaligned Movement and the Group of 77, the PRC and Ecuador have been in solidarity with developing countries, the report adds.

The visit is basically to strengthen the ties of unity between the two peoples and comes at a time when the countries of the South Pacific are attempting to broaden their socio-economic relations to strengthen the South-South dialogue and in this manner begin to view the feasibility of a North-South dialogue.

In any case, President Hurtado and a small delegation will pay a state visit to the PRC 14-19 May. During his absence, the office of the president will be filled by Leon Roldos Aguilar. This will be the 10th time that Roldos Aguilar fills the office.

CANDIDATE BORJA PROMISES TO PROMOTE ANDEAN PACT

PA190416 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] In a press conference held today at noon, Rodrigo Borja, presidential candidate for the Democratic Left-People, Change, and Democracy, said that if he becomes president of Ecuador he will propose a meeting among presidents to discuss the problems of the Andean Pact and promote its strengthening. He added that the problems of the Cartagena Agreement must be dealt with at the highest level to propose it as an organization oriented to the development of the peoples. Borja said that the Andean Pact must be strengthened and added that all member-states had failed to carry out their commitments.

BRIEFS

BANANA EXPORT REVENUES -- According to figures published by the National Banana Program, which is associated with the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, banana enterprises received about $138 million for banana exports through Guayaquil and Bolivar seaports during 1983. The biggest banana buyer during the period was the United States. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Apr 84 PA]

U.S. TAXES AFFECT IRON, STEEL INDUSTRY

FL191436 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0105 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- in 1983, Mexico recorded a $102.1 million deficit in the iron and steel industry, which did not achieve self-sufficiency despite an increase in exports, the University Economic Research Institute has noted.

Arturo Ortiz Wadymar, an economist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, added that this implies that if Mexican exports of surplus iron and steel products were to drop again, it would be impossible to import from the United States what is needed to reactivate the sector. The analyst also stated that the elimination of export subsidies could be counterproductive for small- and medium-size exporters, which are the genuine national exporters. The same applies to certain parastatal enterprises that are in difficult straits because of their debts and excessive fixed outlays. He cited the example of compensatory taxes imposed by the U.S. Congress at the transnational U.S. Steel Company's request for taxes of up to 4.98 percent of steel imported from Mexico.

Exported products valued at $248.5 million were affected by this tax last year. These products consisted principally of steel rods, pig iron, and iron and steel pipes. The specialist stressed that these facts demonstrate that the application of a compensatory tax on a supposedly subsidized type of export tends to reduce the level of exports of the country of origin, as illustrated by Mexico's $102.1 million deficit in iron and steel products.

INDIAN PRESIDENT SINGH TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT

FL191826 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1643 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 19 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Indian Ambassador to Mexico Narendrakumar Jain will receive Indian President Zail Singh at the airport. Singh will arrive in Mexico for a 4-day official visit on Monday, 23 April. The Foreign Relations Secretariat has reported that the Indian president will arrive at Benito Juarez Airport at 1145 and will be escorted to the National Palace for a formal reception by President Miguel de la Madrid.

SECRETARIAT REITERATES GUARANTEES FOR REFUGEES

PA181800 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Apr 84 p 4

[Excerpts] The Government Secretariat reiterated last night that Mexico will continue to guarantee the safety and future of Central American refugees in the country, and warned that the essential condition for repatriation is to have the refugee express a desire to return to his or her country. The secretariat has announced in a communique that talks concluded yesterday among officials of the Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees (COMAR) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). At these talks, the two groups expressed their concern over the increasing number of refugees in the various countries receiving them. An agreement was reached to continue cooperating closely to prepare and finance aid programs for refugees in line with the policies and guidelines outlined by the national authorities in this connection, and within the basic norms internationally recognized concerning this matter.

EL UNIVERSAL CITED ON NATIONAL CONGRESS DEMAND

FL171828 Mexico NOTIMEX in Spanish 1718 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The newspaper EL UNIVERSAL considers that the National Congress's demand for the immediate cessation of all intervention in Central America is one more pronouncement by the Mexican Government and its institutions. EL UNIVERSAL adds that the pronouncement was made in an attempt to achieve the pacific resolution of the Central American crisis and avoid the possibility of violence and confrontation.

In the Congress, representatives of all the political parties signed a declaration condemning the seige of Nicaragua and the laying of mines in her territorial waters.

The newspaper comments that the Central American situation appears to be evolving faster and faster toward general war because the rearming and foreign interference, two important causes of the conflict, continue. It also says that efforts made by Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama -- within the framework of the Contadora Group -- to keep the fighting from spreading and to create the conditions for negotiations have found these warlike actions to be a serious obstacle. EL UNIVERSAL says that, for these reasons, the congressional demand is important, adding that the declaration demands that basic human rights be respected and adds that self-determination and nonintervention are two constituent elements of any organized world community ruled by law.

The newspaper concludes that Mexico has taken a clear position based on its traditional foreign policy and on the legitimacy conferred on us by the unrestricted respect we have shown for the resolutions of the United Nations.

PEMEX WILL NOT INCREASE OIL EXPORTS IN 1984

FL181530 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0055 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex has urged OPEC members, North Sea crude oil producing nations, and the USSR to strengthen the international prices of crude oil.

In a note published today by the evening newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, the parastatal enterprise said Mexico will continue to limit its exports to 1.5 million barrels daily despite the increased demand for crude on the world market.

Pemex stressed that this self-imposed limitation is directly affecting the nature and strength of the economic adjustment program adopted by the present government, fundamentally because of the large amount of national resources that are idle.

Pemex said this measure is necessary because the loss of control over crude prices would mean that exporting nations such as Mexico would lose a significant part of their income derived from the sale of crude. The loss of control might even affect the limitations on production.

Last year Pemex exported the same amount as in 1982 and, in order to provide an example of discipline so the system of prices administered by the producing nations will be maintained, it will not increase its exports in 1984.

CABRERA COMMENTS ON SANDINIST MINING THREAT

PA192151 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 8 C

[By Franklin Bosquez D'Giovanni]

[Text] The national government has described the repeated threats made by the Sandinist commanders on the mining of Panamanian ports in reprisal for the submarine bombs that have caused much damage to the ships attempting to dock in Nicaraguan ports as "biased" and "groundless." Jose Maria Cabrera, Panamanian deputy foreign minister, told LA PRENSA that had these threats been made "we would interpret them as biased. However, we are convinced of the political will of the Nicaraguan Government and that of the other Central American countries to achieve, within the framework of the Contadora Group's efforts, a peaceful and negotiated solution to the crisis" experienced in the region.

A few days ago Humberto and Daniel Ortega, prominent members of the Sandinist government, threatened to mine all the Central American countries' ports as an answer to the mines that, according to the two Ortega brothers, have been placed in the Nicaraguan Atlantic and Pacific coasts by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents.

According to the deputy foreign minister, right now "there are good diplomatic and political relations between the two states as with the other countries of the region. We are participating and helping in the efforts for peace being made by the Contadora Group. We are likewise convinced that a military solution would not be truly effective or lasting for the crisis" that is affecting the central area of the American Continent, Deputy Foreign Minister Cabrera said.

When the deputy foreign minister was asked why the threat was made to the neighboring area when Nicaragua publicly accused the CIA of placing the mines, Jose Maria Cabrera said that he "could not answer for the Sandinists."

The deputy foreign minister recalled that 30 April is the deadline agreed by the Contadora Group foreign ministers and the five Central American countries to present a final report regarding the 21 point agreement. The Technical Group's work commission will meet here [Panama] between April 23 and 29 to finalize the details. "Much progress has been made, positive progress, and we hope to finish what was promised within the time agreed upon.

Concluding, Cabrera announced that on April 29 and 30 the Central American foreign ministers will meet with the Contadora Group.

WOMEN PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

WA191330 Rome IPS in English 13 Apr 84

[By Omaira d'Leon]

[Text] Panama, April 13 (IPS) -- Panamanian women are playing an important part in the current election campaign here, continuing a political role which dates back to Panama's independence from Spain. Panamanian women have moved from behind-the-scenes roles to the forefront of political affairs since then, and now play a more active part in politics than the women in other Latin American nations, according to statistics gathered by the United Nations.

Three of the seven presidential tickets to be voted on in elections set for May 6 -- the same day Salvadorans and Ecuadoreans will choose their heads of state in run-off elections -- include women as vice-presidential candidates. Panamanians will go to the polls again on June 3 to vote for provincial officials and mayors.

The May 6 election will be Panama's first since 1968, when late Gen Omar Torrijos seized power in a coup.

Of Panama's 917,000 voters, 408,063, or 44 percent, are women, according to the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal.

Despite this active participation by women in Panama's elections, however, the presidential candidates have not addressed women's issues in their campaigns. The campaigning has focussed on slum residents, unemployed men, the business sector, and young people -- an important sector in this election, since people 18 to 34 years old, who will be voting for president for the first time, account for more than 450,000 of the 917,000 eligible voters.

Panamanian women won the right to vote in 1941, under a constitution approved that year, during one of the three presidential terms of Arnulfo Arias Madrid, who is running for the office again this year.

But women had a hand in Panamanian politics long before they had the vote. A peasant woman named Rufina Alfaro was one of the leaders of a popular uprising in 1821 known as "The Cry of Villa de los Santos," which marked the first step in Panama's struggle for independence from Spain. Panama became part of Colombia that year, but with policy dictated by the Liberal and Conservative Parties in Bogota, political life in Panama was relatively quiet.

After years as the "forgotten Colombians," Panamanians broke away and formed their own nation in November, 1903.

The separatist movement provided fertile ground for increased political action by women. Maria Ossa de Amador, the wife of Manuel Amador Guerrero, who was to become Panama's first president, worked in secret to make the country's first flag.

Women's influence in the political sphere has grown noticeably throughout the "Torrijista process" ushered in by former President Torrijos.

In the May elections, women are running for the second vice-president's office on the tickets of the center-right Popular Action Party (PAPO), Socialist Workers' Party (PST), and the leftist United People's Electoral Front. The field of candidates for legislative, mayoral and provincial posts also includes numerous women. The ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) has the most women running for office -- more than 100.

BELIZE

DEVELOPMENT OF BARTER WITH JAMAICA ANNOUNCED

FL191540 Belize City SUNDAY TIMES in English 15 Apr 84 pp 1, 13

[Text] Belize and Jamaica have agreed to work towards development of mechanisms for barter trade on an agreed range of commodities. This was announced following a visit to Jamaica last week by Minister of Natural Resources Mr Florencio Marin. Mr Marin and the Jamaican Minister of Agriculture Dr Percival Broderick agreed on a memorandum of understanding to continue to foster trade between the two countries under present Caricom agreements. Terms of the barter trade packages to be negotiated will be based on equitable price indexing arrangements.

A preliminary list of commodities which Belize has interest in exporting include rice, sorghum, beans, peanuts, corn, beef, white fish, common fish, raw oil, and secondary timber. Commodities that can be exported to Belize from Jamaica include tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes, petroleum based products, asphalt, and cement.

Under the memorandum of understanding barter trade arrangements to be coordinated by the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company and Belize Marketing Board will be explored. These organizations will also facilitate any private sector barter trade arrangements.

The two countries are to reactivate the consideration of proposed fishing rights arrangements; arrive at a decision on the future of Caricom farms following evaluation of this project scheduled for May, 1984. They will also examine joint cooperation in investment promotion with local and foreign investors. The two ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to regional cooperation and were concerned over the hiatus position of the Caribbean Food Corporation (CFC). They agreed to endeavour to secure a definitive decision on the future of CFC at the next meeting of the Board of Governors in May, 1984. On regional trade, they agreed to pursue the speedy resolution of mechanisms to promote regional free trade in primary agricultural products.

COSTA RICA

MONGE DENIES PASTORA USES COUNTRY AS REFUGE

PA191955 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1857 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Luis Alberto Monge has said that the Sandinist story that Eden Pastora is using Costa Rica as his refuge is false because "if he entered this country he would be arrested and deported."

"The story being circulated in Managua is contrary to the truth," Monge said today at noon, and noted: "They are trying to keep the world from learning about the real problems being caused for the Nicaraguan regime by the former deputy interior minister of the Sandinist government," referring to Eden Pastora, who today is one of the leaders trying to overthrow the Sandinist regime with arms.

With the same firmness, Monge rejected the statements in Managua about alleged attacks by Pastora against San Juan del Norte from Costa Rica. "That is absolutely false," the president declared, because "Costa Rica, earnest about its neutrality, will never be an aggressor, nor will it allow its territory to be used as a springboard for attacks against any country.

MINISTRY CHANGES CAST DOUBT ON ECONOMIC GAINS

WA161541 Rome IPS in English 10 Apr 84

[By Ufran Garcia]

[Text] San Jose, April 10 (IPS) -- The Costa Rican Government's optimistic view of the country's economic crisis in the last few months is looking increasingly doubtful, due to a frantic reshuffling of economic officials. In the last six weeks, President Luis Alberto Monge has had to designate new ministers of economy, treasury, planning, exports, and foreign financing, after former officials resigned or were forced to move to other posts.

The changes have provoked fears that the Monge administration's prediction of economic recovery this year may not come to pass, since many of the officials responsible for gains in the last two years are now out of the cabinet. The administration, in office since May 1982, has made frequent, optimistic pronouncements on the economy, citing signs of stabilization which it said could make reactivation possible this year, with help from foreign financing. But that recovery now appears to depend on whether the new officials will continue the existing policies, which is uncertain since many of them differ with their predecessors on ways to lift Costa Rica out of the economic abyss.

Costa Rica's current economic crisis began in 1981. In the three years since then, the foreign debts have mounted to $4 billion, the colon (the Costa Rican currency) has been devalued 500 percent and the gross domestic product (GDP) declined for two years running.

Yet, the administration's claims of a turnaround are borne out by the statistics. Inflation fell from 80 to 10 percent in the last year, the exchange rate went from 65 to 43.65 colons per U.S. dollar, and the number of jobless dropped from 75,000 to 50,000. The GDP remained steady last year after falling by nine percent in 1982, and Costa Rica was able to resume payments to international creditors.

But even Monge and his officials admit that Costa Rica is only halfway down the road to recovery. And the reshuffling of the most important economic officials has come at a crucial point on that road, when programs aimed at increasing production and exports -- seen as the key to reactivating the economy -- are supposed to go into action.

Central Bank President Carlos Castillo and Export Minister Mario Carvajal left their posts to start campaigning for the 1986 presidential elections.

Foreign Finance Minister Rodolfo Silva moved to a post at the Inter American Development Bank, Planning Minister Claudio Volio was named ambassador to Washington, Economic Minister Marco Antonio Lopez took over the Central Bank presidency and Treasury Minister Federico Vargas moved to the Foreign Finance Ministry.

Carvajal was replaced as treasury minister by Jorge Manuel Dengo, Bolio in the Planning Ministry by Juan Manuel Villasuso, and Profirio Morera took over the Treasury Ministry.

Opposition political leaders, particularly of the Social Christian Unity Party, say the economic cabinet has been "dismembered" and charge that the administration's optimistic view of the economy is mere "fiction." Social Christian Deputy Danilo Chaverri says that "we have been denouncing this supposed improvement in the national economy as a fiction since the beginning of this administration...." The hopes for recovery are all pinned on foreign aid, Chaverri argues.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has announced funding for Costa Rica of more than $327 million to be disbursed over 18 months -- an unprecedented amount in such a short period. The international monetary fund loaned Costa Rica $100 million last year and has just granted $53 million for 1984.

Administration officials note that this foreign credit is essential to Costa Rica's economic stabilization, but admit that the funding will prove useless unless it succeeds in stimulating the country's ability to generate income domestically. Costa Rica exported $850 million in 1983, and imported about $1 billion. Coffee, bananas, meat and sugar provided about 70 percent of the exports.

The Monge administration hopes to increase exports of non-traditional products in the next few years, and has begun promoting cultivation of citrus fruits, vegetables, sunflowers, and castor-oil plants, among other crops.

Former Treasury Minister Federico Vargas announced recently that the GDP could rise three percent this year, from zero growth last year. Former Central Bank President Castillo was also optimistic on GDP growth this year, although he predicted that it will take three or four years to reach the three percent mark. But with Vargas now in Foreign Financing, as a minister without portfolio, and Castillo planning his political campaign, the new officials are busy making their own calculations, and have yet to make public their figures.

EL SALVADOR

ELECTORAL COUNCIL ON ELIMINATION OF REGISTRY

PA190430 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 Apr 84 pp 5, 17

[Excerpts] "The Central Electoral Council's position is quite clear: Its members will resign if President Magana does not veto the amendments to the provisional electoral law."

This statement was made to the press yesterday by Central Electoral Council President Armando Rodriguez Eguizaval, who added that he did not know whether Magana had already received the amendments sent by the Legislative Assembly.

A Democratic Action alderman, Jorge Hernandez, said the decision to resign is not unanimous, adding that he would resign if the 6 May elections are carried out without the electoral registry. "The electoral registry represents a control and guarantee, and we could not say that the second electoral round was honest and pure if we discard the registry," Hernandez asserted.

"Due to the Legislative Assembly's surprising decision, the council -- with all its patriotic honesty and duty toward the people -- states that it will be impossible to organize an electoral system that guarantees a pure event on 6 May," he pointed out.

"The 6 May elections would not have enough national and international credibility without the registry. The Central Electoral Council's job is not merely to carry out the elections, but to carry out elections that have national and international credibility," Hernandez asserted.

"Likewise, we cannot assert that the 6 May elections will be fraudulent if the registry is not used; however, we do say that we cannot guarantee there will be no fraud without the registry," Hernandez emphasized.

D'AUBUISSON ON ELIMINATION OF ELECTORAL LISTS

PA191805 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 Apr 84 pp 5, 23

[Text] "The Legislative Assembly has modified the interim Electoral Law without changing or harming the spirit of the Constitution. In other words, the abolished electoral lists are no longer the electoral register." Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta, presidential candidate for the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, made this comment yesterday. He pointed out that the Constitution clearly specifies in Article 77: "To be able to vote, one must be registered on the electoral register, which will be issued by the Central Electoral Council [CCE]; independent of any other public registry."

Maj D'Aubuisson added: "The CCE has said that the electoral register -- which is a constitutional requirement -- is ready. The Constitution specifies that an electoral register is necessary as an 'indispensable condition to vote,' but that the CCE should prepare this registry autonomously, independent of the electoral lists ('independent of any other public registry') according to Article 77 of the Constitution."

"It is necessary to note that the idea is to make sure that voters will not face the same obstacles they did during the 25 March elections. Instead, they will be able to cast their ballots at the voting place closest to their homes, as an undeniable expression of their free will and their rejection of the leftist violence that Salvadorans have had to suffer extensively for many years. Once again, we will courageously reject this violence by voting for El Savador and for nationalism, peace, work, and social and legal security," D'Aubuisson concluded.

FMLN: DOWNED U.S. HELICOPTERS OVER EL SALVADOR

PA192055 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Attention, pay close attention, Salvadoran people. We have an important report for our entire people: At 1515 on 18 April, two U.S. helicopters flew in from Honduras and penetrated Salvadoran airspace in the northern zone of Morazan. They overflew at a low altitude San Fernando, Jocoaitique, Torola, Joateca, and Perquin during a reconnaissance mission. Our FMLN anti-aircraft units, which are in a permanent state of alert throughout Morazan, immediately fired at the helicopters carrying out this reconnaissance maneuver. The helicopters then withdrew toward Honduras.

At 1600 on 18 April, two A-37 planes flew in from Honduras and overflew Morazan Department, withdrawing later toward Honduras. Almost immediately, the Honduran media and several U.S. Government officials released a statement by the U.S. ambassador in Honduras, according to which FMLN units had opened fire at a helicopter carrying a group of U.S. officials who were visiting the refugee camp (?in) Colomoncagua and the town of Intibuca.

The FMLN declares that this assertion by U.S. Ambassador in Honduras Negroponte is completely false and seeks only to serve as provocation to justify the continuation of the U.S. preparations to attack Nicaragua and El Salvador from Honduras, where thousands of soldiers are ready to fight. The FMLN units have been put in a state of alert in the face of possible mass bombings by U.S. planes in a first step toward the escalation of the Gringo plans of aggression. The FMLN does not have positions in Honduras from which to attack either the military units of that country or the aircraft overflying that territory.

The FMLN maintains control over a large zone in Morazan Department. In that zone, the regular anti-aircraft units are in a permanent state of alert, ready to fight and repel all incursions of the type made this afternoon by the U.S. helicopters which flew deep into our territory from Honduras in a threatening manner.

Our anti-aircraft units will always open fire against all such incursions in order to defend our sovereignty. We recall that in January this year, during the Big Pine II maneuvers, U.S. Army helicopters overflew El Salvador -- the towns of Perquin, San Fernando, Torola, and Jocaitique. Today's incursions are exploratory missions, (?since a) part of the U.S. Army participated in the aggressive military Grenadier I maneuvers.

Our entire people are alert in the face of the imperialist aggression! Yankee aggressor, [words indistinct] our weapons are ready! Out of El Salvador!

VENCEREMOS CLAIMS ARMY ARRESTS TWO NUNS

PA190426 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Attention. Our units in the vicinity of the military highway have reported on the enemy troops on that route near Jocoro. Today at 1730, two Salvadoran nuns were arrested. According to reports the nuns (?were coming) from the border. This action is part of Colonel Adalberto Cruz's reprisal against the people. Due to his ineptitude in maintaining control of the military highway where an enemy company was dislodged, Col Cruz himself was ambushed by our revolutionary forces. We call all the national and international media to come to San Francisco Gotera and discover the situation of the two Salvadoran nuns arrested by San Francisco Gotera troops. We inform religious institutions about this capture, so that they will demand that Col Adalberto Cruz respect the arrested nuns' integrity.

HONDURAS

MOUNTING BUDGET DEFICIT STRAINS ECONOMY

WA171947 Rome IPS in English 13 Apr 84

[By Manuel Torres]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, April 13 (IPS) -- Honduras' mounting budget deficit, now more than $250 million, is pushing the economy to the brink of disaster, and officials appear to have no solutions to shore up declining production. The government has released no official figures on the deficit, but it is no secret that President Roberto Suazo Cordova's administration is under intense pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to close the gap with public spending cuts and new takes.

Treasury Minster Arturo Corleto warns that "if we can't reduce the deficit, in coming months we will have to confront three fatal consequences for the Honduran economy." The first result would be the shelving of needed public works, including construction of community roads, schools and agricultural development programs.

The current shortage of convertible foreign exchange, particularly dollars, would grow worse, and Honduras would find it even harder to purchase raw materials, which would slow down industry and increase unemployment. Official figures set the number of jobless Hondurans at more than 300,000, or about one-fourth of the work force. There are also more than 500,000 underemployed, many of them working part-time in agro-industrial companies, which are tied to the international market.

The third consequence of the deficit cited by Corleto would be the loss of $200 million in loans promised to Honduras by foreign credit organizations. The feeble Honduran economy is only managing to stay on its feet thanks to foreign funding, but the capital flow has slowed down considerably in recent months. The administration is trying to convince creditors and foreign businesses that Honduras is in better shape than the rest of Central America, but so far that campaign has proven unsuccessful.

Suazo Cordova's officials have tried to stay up to date on international payments, but the foreign debts, totalling some $2 billion, are bearing down hard on Honduras' dwindling coffers. For the last year, the Honduran Government has been trying to reach an accord with 40 private, foreign banks for new conditions on the debt payments, extending repayment terms an additional seven years, with a three-year grace period. But so far, those efforts have been fruitless, since the creditors are waiting for Honduras to reach an agreement with the IMF before they ease repayment conditions.

Honduras' last IMF accord expired on Dec 31, and a new agreement has not been signed because of the administration's resistance to the IMF's conditions -- new taxes and public spending cuts.

Corleto reported that the executive branch is preparing a "package" of fiscal laws aimed at improving the government's collections of taxes, but he rejected the possibility of imposing new ones. Other are not so sure. Paul Vinelli, a U.S. banker who heads Honduras' most important bank, the Banco Atlantida, said that new taxes are "indispensable." Trade unions and professional organizations, however, remain firmly opposed to any new taxes.

NICARAGUA

BORGE SAYS ONLY WAR COULD STOP ELECTIONS

PA191840 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Apr 84 p 5

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview with Freddy Balzan of PATRIA LIBRE magazine, Commander Tomas Borge said: "Only a full-scale war or a direct U.S. invasion could prevent the elections in Nicaragua." Commander Borge commented on triumphs and mistakes of the revolutionary process since its beginning on 19 July 1979.

He said that one of the biggest mistakes of the revolutionary period was "the provision of subsidies in an attempt to keep things normal after the triumph, when we were faced with a country in ruins, one that had been plundered and left with a crippled economy." Another mistake acknowledged by the leader is "the failure to establish cultural rapport with the Atlantic coast, because we were unacquainted with the anthropology and language of the people there, a situation that our enemy skillfully exploited.

Commenting on the elections, Borge said that a national and international campaign is being waged against the electoral process. He said: "This does not surprise us, because the campaign is part of imperialism's general plan to destablize and destroy our revolution at all costs." Borge added: "They know that they have no chance of winning the elections and are aware of their defeat; therefore, our enemies have applied the strategy of questioning the election's legitimacy and promoting abstention and confusion."

He said that the righist political parties face a "terrible" dilemma, because "if they take part in the elections, they will remain as they are -- insignificant political groups -- and if they do not take part, they will disappear from the political scene and survive only in the poor imagination of those in Miami and other places who dream of the return of the murderers, those who stole bad taste [as published] and looted the Republic's treasury." Borge ended his comment on this topic by saying: "They (the murderers) shall not return."

Other matters that Borge commented on in his interview with PATRIA LIBRE, which is already in circulation, were the need to continue strengthening the revolution, the respect now existing in Nicaragua for human rights, and the revolutionary leadership's expectation as regards future U.S. Administrations which, he said, is that they will show "better sense."

300 MEN SAID TO ATTACK MISKITO SETTLEMENT

PA181506 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] The slogan, They shall not pass, was firmly maintained yesterday, with the expulsion of a counterrevolutionary group made up of some 300 men who brutally attacked the Miskito settlement of Sumubila. The counterrevolutionary attack was heroically repelled by a few policemen, combatants, and Miskitos who formed the self-defense group. They managed to prevent the takeover of the settlement of 3,000 Miskitos, despite their numerical disadvantage.

As a result of this criminal action, 3 people were killed, including 2 women and 1 girl, while 10 others were wounded and 32 were kidnapped. The attackers destroyed the health center and the basic grains warehouse. They also burned the cocoa plantation project, one of the main employment sources in the area.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SAN JUAN DEL NORTE SITUATION

Chamorro: FMLN 'Still Fighting'

PA191803 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] The following are Commander Tito Chamorro's words. Commander Chamorro, who led the seizure of San Juan del Norte, has delivered his first address after carrying out a heroic deed that has already been reported by the international press. Chamorro spoke about the seizure of the port and airport in San Juan del Norte, which has turned into a political and military problem for the pseudo-commanders who misrule Nicaragua. Here is Commander Chamorro:

[Begin Chamorro recording] The mass peasant participation made this operation possible, as it enabled us to concentrate the people so we could attack the enemy firmly from that point [not further specified]. That is one of the most important aspects. At no time have we withdrawn, and we continue fighting. We have continued to fight at another site in the area of San Juan del Norte.

Whatever they might say is a part of their stories and lies. Our people are gradually realizing this, and gradually the activities of the system (?oppressing them unjustly) are being revealed. Our (?peripheral) defense repelled an attack there. We do not know the results on their side, but one of our men was injured.

I think it is important to stress that without the help of all the democratic countries -- which so far have acted sanctimoniously toward us -- we will be unable to maintain our positions, because the nine commanders receive large volumes of aid from the Soviets. This is [words indistinct] decision for many of the countries who have adopted sanctimonious stands on providing aid to recover our revolution.

It is important to note this: They do not acknowledge the fact that (?we seized) San Juan del Norte, and now by coincidence they are seizing it. It would be good if you would explain this, because they have never acknowledged the fact that we seized it, and now they claim to be seizing it themselves. [end recording]

You have just heard Commander Chamorro's statement. Chamorro was in charge of the seizure of San Juan del Norte, and he has categorically denied that the port and airport have been recovered by the Marxist-Leninist forces that operate from Managua.

Foreign Reporters Visit Town

PA192340 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2252 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Managua, 19 Apr (DPA) -- Following the arrival of Sandinist People's Army (EPS) troops in San Juan del Norte and the "flight" to Costa Rica of the 500 members of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), shooting on the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border has ended. The AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA (ANN) has said that reports from the Costa Rican Rural and Civil Guards and the Red Cross indicate that no wounded have arrived in the emergency posts that were installed on the border last week.

Meanwhile, a group of foreign newsmen today traveled to San Juan del Norte aboard a Sandinist Air Force (FAS) helicopter to learn the details of the situation in the remote town in southern Nicaragua, which was seized by ARDE forces last week.

At the same time, a Costa Rican Foreign Ministry communique was released in Managua. In the communique, President Luis Alberto Monge stated that his country's territory has not been used for the attack on San Juan del Norte. This was the Costa Rican president's reaction after the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister had asked the Costa Rican Government not to permit the use of its territory for armed actions against Nicaraguan positions.

The Managua government has blamed the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for the attacks on San Juan del Norte, indicating that they are part of the plans to harm the Sandinist revolution which began in 1979.

Meanwhile, the fate of the 72 Sandinist soldiers who were defending the San Juan del Norte garrison on 8 April when the ARDE forces led by Eden Pastora began the attacks with mortar and rifle fire is unknown. In recovering the San Juan del Norte area, the Sandinist Army used Air Force and infantry forces which did not enter into action due to the departure of the rebels who, according to the Nicaraguan Government, entered Costa Rica.

MISURA LEADER REPORTS CLASHES, REFUGEE EXODUS

PA192230 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2022 GMT 19 Apr 84

[By Franciso Javier Mejia]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Political Commission of the Misura and Creole-Black [Misura y Criollos-Negros] anti-Sandinist organization today rejected "the mining of the border zone between Nicaragua and Honduras" in Tegucigalpa. According to Madan Artola, the committee's spokesman, the mining was aimed at preventing Nicaraguans from fleeing from "the atrocities" perpetrated by the Sandinist Army.

In this same manner, Artola described a clash between the Misura and Creole-black guerrilla units and Sandinist troops last Monday in the vicinity of the area known as La Tranquera, which left a total of 16 casualties for the government troops and 4 for the rebels. A column of 40 guerrillas led by Commander "Black Bear" participated in the clash, in which no war materiel was recovered, the insurgent spokesman said.

Artola also reported that in the Yulo area, a group of rebles led by Commander "Puma" ambushed a Sandinist patrol causing it more than 15 casualties. The fighting was carried out with rounds of rifle and grenade launcher shots, and lasted 2 hours, after which the insurgents withdrew without being able to recover any war materiel, according to the reports.

Artola added that a clash with the Nicaraguan Army also took place in the town of Lepan, where five Misura and Creole-black commandos clashed with a patrol of 25 Sandinists last Tuesday morning. The Sandinists lost eight soldiers in the clash and later ordered the bombing of the town in reprisal, causing the destruction of several homes, Artola added.

Artola repeated a call to the "free world" to stop the "systematic extermination of the Indians on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua" which, according to him, is perpetrated by government forces and foreigners at their service.

On the occasion of the Holy Week holidays in all of Central America, thousands of Nicaraguans "have begun a massive exodus toward neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica, pursued and harassed by Sandinist soldiers, Artola said. He spoke of of the recent arrival in Honduras of 300 refugee families from Nicaragua. The new arrivals have been sent to the Honduran community of Jacaleapa in the eastern El Paraiso Province, on the border with Nicaragua, and they have requested the aid of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and the Honduran Government in order to relocate in Honduras.

With this new group, there are some 22,000 Nicaraguan refugees currently living in Honduras, the majority in a large forest region in the northeastern part of the country known as La Mosquitia, where they have been incorporated into a self-supporting program supported by UNHCR and the local government.

CASTO CITED ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TURNOUT

FL191403 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Primary elections for municipal assembly members of the People's Government were held yesterday. Our people massively turned out to vote and turned this delegate election into another resounding victory of the revolution.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, cast his vote early, as did other revolutionary leaders. After Fidel cast his vote, he met with reporters who were at his polling station.

[Begin Castro recording] The total number of voters is 6,422,000 plus. The number of polling stations is 10,986; we have not yet reached 15,000. It was reported that the number of nominated women was slightly higher, but still not high enough. I think I am right when I say that it approximated 16 percent plus of nominated women.

The educational level of the candidates has also grown noticeably over the last 4 years. But this is clearly explained by the sustained development of the educational level and [words indistinct]. One hundred seventy-seven district delegates, who are members of the National Assembly, have nominated 251, which is a relatively low number of nominated. The number of renominated delegates is between 57 and 60 percent. This shows a greater stability. [end recording]

MALMIERCA DISCUSSES HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREIGN TOUR

PA191726 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 84

["Excerpt" of a news conference given by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in Havana on 17 April "upon his return from a visit to several African nations and to France" -- recorded]

[Text] [Malmierca] As you know, we conducted official visits to Ghana, Upper Volta, and France in response to invitations extended to us by the foreign ministers of those countries, Obed Asamoah, Hama Arba Diallo, and Claude Cheysson.

In each of these countries we had a broad exchange of views on the outstanding aspects of the current international situation. We also reviewed the bilateral relations between Cuba and each of the countries we visited.

We believe that the joint communiques that were signed at the conclusion of our visits to Ghana and Upper Volta are accurate summaries of our talks. They note our concurrence on the outstanding international issues and they reiterate our desire to contribute to the preservation of peace and our rejection of the threat that U.S. policy poses to the preservation of peace. They also note our soldiarity with the national liberation movements, particularly in Africa -- with the struggle of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Sagui el Hamra and Rio de Oro] for the independence of Western Sahara, with the struggle of SWAPO [South-West African Peoples Organization] to achieve the independence of the Namibian people, and with the ANC [African National Congress], which is struggling against the racial discrimination and the doctrine of apartheid of South African regime.

Both communiques express full support for the declaration that was signed in Havana by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and President Fidel Castro during President Santos' visit to Cuba. This declaration pointed out the need to achieve three conditions to maintain peace and security in central Africa that would guarantee the security, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Angola. As you know, these conditions were: the complete and unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from the territory they occupy in Angola, an authentic process for the full independence of the Namibian people as stipulated by Resolution 435 of the [word indistinct] of the United Nations, and the suspension of all aid to the counterrevolutionary bands of UNITA by the South African regime.

The communiques condemn the escalation of aggression by the U.S. Government against Nicaragua and the revolutionary forces of El Salvador and caution against the increased dangers that this policy poses for the Central American situation. They also reiterate our government's support for the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve a peaceful and political solution to the Central American situation.

During our visits we were received in Ghana by President Rawlings, Prime Minister Obeng [as heard], and [special adviser] Captain Tsikata. We also held talks with Foreign Relations Minister Asamoah and with the minister of information.

In Upper Volta it was an honor to be received by President Sankara, Foreign Affairs Minister Hama Arba Diallo, and by other leaders of the Upper Volta Government.

During our visit to France, in addition to our official talks with External Relations Minister Cheysson and his advisers, it was an honor to be received by Prime Minister Mauroy; Luis Mermaz, president of the National Assembly; Transportation Minister Fiterman; and Culture Minister Lang. This allowed us to engage in a broad exchange of views on -- I repeat -- the various aspects of the current international situation, particularly regarding the situation in Central America. We are able to confirm their concurrence with our ideas on the urgent need to find a political and peaceful solution to the regional crisis and on the seriousness of the escalation of the military actions that are taking place in the region, particularly concerning the mining of the Nicaraguan ports, which took place while we were in Paris.

We also reviewed our bilateral relations and concluded that they are advancing satisfactorily. We studied the possibility of conducting new meetings. In the case of Ghana and Upper Volta, we analyzed the meetings of the Joint Cooperation Commissions that will take place this year to reach agreement on several aspects of our bilateral cooperation. In the case of France, we noted the possibility of further visits that may enable us to continue these exchanges and contacts that both countries find very valuable.

BELGIAN GROUP HOPES VISIT RESULTS IN ACCORD

FL191756 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, Central Committee member, Council of State member, and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has said that contact between the Belgian and Cuban parliaments will contribute to widening in all aspects relations between the two countries.

Flavio Bravo said that during the talks the prevailing spirit was one of dialogue and a fight for peace. Bravo stressed this at a cocktail party held before the departure of the 19-member Belgian Parliament delegation after a 1-week visit to Cuba.

(Isidore Eger Meirs), the Belgian delegation's leader, described the visit as a success and noted the interesting program of activities in which they participated, which included visits to Pinar del Rio and Santiago de Cuba Provinces, and the Isle of Youth. The Belgian leader said he hoped that this visit would contribute to bringing about the signing of a cultural agreement between Belgium and Cuba, which has previously been impossible to obtain.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES NEW ECUADORAN ENVOY

FL200036 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez today received Eduardo Santos, Ecuador's new ambassador to Cuba, who presented his credentials. The Ecuadoran diplomat then placed a wreath at the statue of Jose Marti in Revolutionary Square.

REAGAN BEGINS WEST COAST CAMPAIGN, CHINA TRIP

FL191926 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Press agencies have reported that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has left Washington on his first trip to China. According to AFP, Reagan's trip to China will be conducted in several stages, which will allow him to do some presidential campaigning on the west coast and in Hawaii.

Chinese officials have announced that a beautiful Oriental-style residence has been reserved for Reagan.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the leader of the ultraracist Ku Klux Klan organization has asked his followers to vote for Reagan in the upcoming elections.

'COMMUNIST THREAT' SPARKS 'ILLOGICAL' U.S. POLICY

FL190243 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Commentary by Carlos Mora Hernan]

[Text] The theme of the so-called communist threat, which is nothing new and has been used for many years, has become the focal point of the reasons cited by the U.S. Government headed by Ronald Reagan to commit serious outrages and the crudest violations of international law. Officials such as U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger publicly justify the mining of the Nicaraguan ports, which has provoked international repudiation and strong opposition, even in the United States.

CIA Director William Casey said that he was not concerned by the mining of the Nicaraguan ports but rather by the possible invasion of the United States if socialism were implanted in Central America. Of course, Mariel [the arrival of Cuban refugees in the United States in 1982] still hurts them and they do not want the already large number of antisocial elements in the country to be increased.

The lack of logic in Reagan's policy is not surprising. Recently, on the occasion of the friendly visit to Cuba by Soviet warships, the U.S. news media unleashed a campaign, inspired by Washington, on the dangers that such a visit represented. The United States has tens of warships, including aircraft carriers, in Central America, off the coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua, engaging in provocative maneuvers. Its warships have bombarded Beirut in the Middle East and participated in the criminal invasion of Grenada. They roam all the seas and oceans of the world and this seems quite natural to them.

THE WASHINGTON POST has just published an article signed by Frank Church pointing out the inability of the United States to accept revolutionary change in the Third World and affirming that this lack of comprehension has been the central theme of Yankee diplomacy for the last 40 years. The inability that Church cites goes deeper than a lack of comprehension of the current world situation, especially the situation that emerged after the Second World War.

Through this lack of comprehension, President Reagan blames the Soviet Union and Cuba for all its problems -- for the Nicaraguan revolution, the struggle for liberation in El Salvador, the Guatemalan guerrilla struggle, and so on. In his anti-Communist delirium tremens, he even says that the United States invaded Grenada because that small island was militarily occupied by Russians and Cubans.

The sad thing about all of this is that large sectors of the U.S. public believe these lies and inventions. That country's propaganda apparatus, which has in its service specialists as well as scientific and technical advances, keeps them unaware of what is occurring in the world and manipulates information, changing lies into truths according to the classic formula used by the Nazi Goebbels, that a lie repeated many times ends up being a truth.

The recent escalation of the aggression against Nicaragua, in which thousands of mercenaries participated, again brings up the question of whether or not Reagan will militarily attack Central America before the elections. We are of the opinion that he will not attack while the outcome of the election is uncertain. At least, this is what logic would indicate, although, with characters like Reagan, it is certain that logic does not work very well, by virtue of the fact that he thinks he is the Messiah. And he is -- of the most reactionary ideas that exist in that country. And that is our commentary. Good night.

NATO Allies Concerned

PA192249 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 84

["World Events" commentary]

[Excerpt] The most recent aggressive actions of U.S. imperialism have widened the differences between the United States and its NATO allies. The European capitalist powers view with growing concern Washington's steps toward the internationalization of the Central American conflict and the increase in tensions in the European Continent.

The operation to mine the most important Nicaraguan ports, directed and supplied by the U.S. CIA in an attempt to blockade that Central American country; the gigantic electronic espionage system; and the devices to interfere with the Sandinist's armed forces communications have reached unheard-of levels and are open acts of war. The United States' increase in its intervention in the internal matters of Nicaragua has not been supported by Washington's European allies, who are more and more concerned about the aggressive spirit that Ronald Reagan's government is exhibiting in the events.

The worsening of the aggressions against Nicaragua has created in Europe a wave of indignation that envelops the popular sectors as well as the highest ranking leaders. In the UK, FRG, and other NATO countries, strong protests have been lodged against the United States' warmongering attitude.

GUYANA PEACE CONFERENCE CONDEMNS U.S. POLICY

PA191508 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] The Caribbean and Latin American peace conference held in Georgetown, Guyana, has strongly condemned the U.S. invasion of Grenada and demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces still on the island. The conference expressed its support for the Sandinist revolution and for the Contadora Group peace efforts in Central America.

The participants in the conference repudiated the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and backed the Sandinist government decision to accuse Washington before the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

CASEY ACCUSED OF BIGOTRY, GREED, SUPERIORITY

FL200154 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Racial hatred and love for the almighty dollar characterize the shady character who, from the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States, personally pulls the strings of the dirty war against Sandinist Nicaragua.

William Casey, an intimate friend of Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, is equally notorious for his haughty attitude, which has earned him many enemies in Congress. An expert in financial matters, Casey has amassed a personal fortune, which is estimated at $12 million. Like the President and other high officials in the current U.S. Government, the director of the CIA has heavy investments in high-technology military industries.

It is not surprising, then, that the director of U.S. espionage and subversion favors military solutions, especially if they are directed against individuals considered to be inferior -- that is, citizens of Third World countries, at which his activities (?are directed.)

Unfortunately for Mr William Casey, his astuteness for business seems to have deserted him with respect to this anti-Sandinist mission. The current director of the CIA would do well to remember that exactly 23 years ago today one of his predecessors suffered a resounding defeat on the sands of a Cuban beach. Remember Giron, Mr Casey. [last sentence in English]

COSTA RICAN ACTIONS MAKE NEUTRALITY DOUBTFUL

PA191743 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 18 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpts] The Costa Rican daily LA NACION has warned that the counterrevolutionary groups that attack Nicaraguan territory with CIA support are giving new emphasis to provoking incidents between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

The supply of weapons to counterrevolutionary groups has drawn the attention of the Costa Rican population, which showed visible alarm when it was learned that an aircraft loaded with weapons had recently crashed in northern Costa Rica. The incident revealed the existence of a military supply system in Costa Rica to support the counterrevolutionary bands that attack Nicaragua and kill men, women, children in peasant areas.

LA NACION disclosed that during counterrevolutionary attacks on the Nicaraguan Port of San Juan del Norte the so-called Democratic Revolutionary Alliance led by Eden Pastora turned the hospital in Cuidad Quesada, in the northern part of Costa Rica, into a military medical center for the mercenaries.

Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, recently accused the United States of pressuring and blackmailing Central American governments affected by the economic crisis in order to get them involved in attacks against Nicaragua. In this respect, he mentioned Enrique Chacon, Costa Rican deputy government minister, whom he accused of openly aiding the counterrevolutionary groups in their attacks on Nicaragua. He also accused other Costa Rican officials who act in the same way, clearly contradicting the neutrality principle proclaimed by President Luis Alberto Monge's government. Daniel Ortega noted that because of this complicity, counterrevolutionary groups can operate freely against Nicaragua from Costa Rican territory and even use helicopters to transport men and arms. During the attack on San Juan del Norte, counterrevolutionary forces used a corridor to enter Nicaragua from Costa Rica. These actions make the proclaimed Costa Rican neutrality doubtful, and have prompted Daniel Ortega to send a note to President Luis Alberto Monge in which he clearly described the situation.

SALVADORAN REBELS ESTABLISH PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT

FL191330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Radio Farabundo Marti has reported that a people's government [administracion popular] has been established in the northern region of Chalatenango Province, an area under guerrilla control.

U.S. SENATORS FIRED ON IN EL SALVADOR

PA192025 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Two military helicopters carrying U.S. Senators Lawton Chiles and Bennett Johnston, as well as Diana Negroponte, wife of the U.S. ambassador in Tegucigalpa, were forced to land by antiaircraft fire as they overflew guerrilla-controlled Salvadoran territory.

The U.S. senators, who are visiting Honduras as part of a Central American tour, were on a reconnaissance flight. Their helicopters overflew the Salvadoran villages of San Fernando, Torola, Jocoaitique, and Perquin in Morazan Department.

According to official reports from Washington, no passenger on either helicopter was hurt.

The clandestine radio station Radio Venceremos reported that in clashes during the past 25 days the Salvadoran Army lost 154 soldiers, another 104 were injured, and more than 50 were taken prisoner.

In San Salvador, regime sources admitted that fierce clashes have taken place in Jocoro, Osicala, and Divisadero in Morazan Department, and that at least four soldiers were killed.

FMLN Claims Credit

FL200026 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The FMLN has announced that its antiaircraft installations demanded a U.S. military helicopter, which entered rebel-controlled Salvadoran territory from Honduras. Two U.S. senators were traveling in the helicopters.

GUATEMALAN REBEL REPORTS SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

PA170236 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Interview with Andrea Ramirez, representative in Cuba of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Andrea, I would like to know about the latest phase of revolutionary activities. I would also like to know about the official propaganda of the Guatemalan regime and the United States minimizing these activities. Please give me a general idea of the current revolutionary struggle in Guatemala.

[Ramirez] I am going to concentrate on the past few months. First of all, there have been political and military actions in the Departments of El Quiche, Huehuetenango, Peten, Quatemala, Solola, Santa Rosa, San Marcos, Quezaltenango, and Suchitepequez.

Some of the most noteworthy actions -- it would be impossible to list all of them -- are the annihilation and arms recovery operations that we have carried out successfully. There is, for example, the operation carried out in the village of Monaco, in the country's north. This was very successful combat, which took place only 2 km from a military barracks.

I could also mention the combat in (Salvai Hispani) in northern El Quiche, as well as the latest clash at the farm of Fortuna in (Menton), Huehuetenango, where an important action occurred that resulted in arms recovery and annihilation of enemy troops. Another action occurred in the Monaco settlement, Ixcan, Balli municipality.

All of these were successful operations in which we lost only one valuable comrade in arms. We not only killed enemy troops, but recovered arms, especially Galil rifles and M-1 carbines.

In addition, we have attacked landing strips and damaged an Air Force helicopter at the (Retalteco) cooperative of La Libertad Municapality. We might also mention one of the actions that elicited a reaction in both national and international circles. This was the attack on the Presidential Palace carried out simultaneously with six diversions operations in several places in Guatemala City.

There was also a successful attack on Guatemalan Army troops who were supported by artillery and planes. This action took place at a coffee plantation in Nuevo Progreso, where we inflicted 17 casualties on the enemy.

During an attack we carried out in Suchitepequez, an enemy helicopter was damanged. These helicopters are supplied to the repressive Guatemalan Government by the Reagan administration, as are spare parts, advisers, technicians, and pilot training. This particular action occurred at the Estacion and (Montequia) farms, Ikacal, in Suchitepequez.

As I told you before, I would not want to use too much of the time allotted me, but many similar actions have occurred where forces of the various organizations of the URNG are participating. We can say we parried the offensives that the enemy has launched throughout 1983 against the main guerrilla centers. Despite these offensives, we have been able to operate and extend our operational areas. In addition, we have resumed our activity in other places.

In this way, the URNG's political and military actions are contributing more and more to the Guatemalan Army's immobilization in our territory, so that the Army cannot attack our brothers in Central America.

EGP GUERRILLAS FIGHTING MILITARY IN EL QUICHE

FL181456 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] The Guerrilla Army of the Poor [Ejercito Guerrillero de los Pobres -- EGP] has been made responsible for the 45 casualties suffered by the Guatemalan Army during fighting in two locations in El Quiche Province. Another report said a total of 54 assassinations and 23 kidnappings had taken place over the last 10 days in Guatemala. The government forces' repressive actions also entailed the detention of 300 persons in a massive roundup in Guatemala City.

CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON NICARAGUA, C.A. PEACE

PA140037 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] An international conference on Nicaragua and for peace in Central America will be held in Lisbon 3-6 May. The conference will be presided over by Argentine Nobel prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel. The conference will particularly analyze U.S. aggression against the Sandinist revolution and the situation created in the area after the mining of Nicaraguan ports by commandos of the U.S. CIA.

UN, NICARAGUA SIGN ACCORD ON INFORMATION CENTER

FL141850 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Here is a report and interview by PRENSA LATINA's radio service with Nicaragua's Ambassador to the United States Javier Chamorro Mora, who signed the agreement between the Nicaraguan Government and the UN establishing a Un information center in Managua.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Laura (Chocoski)] Nicaragua's Ambassador to the United States Javier Chamorro Mora and the UN's Under Secretary General for Public Information Yasushi Akash I have signed an accord to establish a UN information center in Managua. At the informal ceremony, Ambassador Chamorro stressed the importance of the UN's presence in his country and said that under Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship, there was little information on the UN's work and little interest in participating in his organization's activities.

[Chamorro] Beginning 19 June 1979 there was a qualitative change because we made the decision to have a real Nicaragua, a new Nicaragua, a nonaligned, independent Nicaragua. We have tried to develop the nation from this date. We did not feel that we had to expressly state this fact, we were waiting until the world took notice of Nicaragua's hopes, problems, and goals. And for this to be realized, we found it necessary to count on the availability of pertinent information which will permit us to face problems in an adequate manner and to help in the search for world solutions.

[(Chocoski)] That was Ambassador Javier Chamorro Mora at the accord signing ceremony establishing a UN information center in Managua. This is Laura (Chocoski) reporting from the UN. [end recording]

NEW YORK TIMES CITED ON NICARAGUAN PORTS MINING

PA191858 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The U.S. Congress must assume part of the blame for not having known about the CIA's role in mining Nicaraguan ports and attacking Nicaraguan facilities, THE NEW YORK TIMES has asserted. According to the paper, although it is clear that the CIA and its director William Casey did not fulfill their legal duty of keeping the Senate's intelligence committee well informed, it is also true that there were few protests or demands for better information on the CIA's role in attacking Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, in the city of St Louis, Domocratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson urged the U.S. Congress to take President Ronald Reagan to court over his Central American policy.

GROUPS CONDEMN MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS

PA172223 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The Latin American Culture Association [Asociacion para la Cultura Latinoamericana] has stated that the mining of Nicaraguan ports recalls methods used by Nazi-fascism. The organization also said that this measure by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency constitutes an attack on a sovereign nation and thus an attack on democracy throughout the world.

Horst Schmidt, leader of the Unified Socialist Party [Partido Socialista Unificad] of West Berlin, has described the undeclared U.S. war against Nicaragua as a flagrant violation of international law. He also recalled that since the triumph of the Sandinist revolution, the U.S. Government has waged a systematic campaign to destabilize that Central American country.

Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa, former Colombian foreign minister, has said that the attacks on Nicaragua were included in President Ronald Reagan's timetable. He also warned that history will severely judge this war that has been organized and promoted by the U.S. Government.

The Nicaraguan Labor Coordination Organization has urged the international workers' movement to stop the U.S. Government's terrorist campaign against the Nicaraguan people. It pointed out that U.S. policy toward Central America runs contrary to peace efforts in the region.

The International Court of Justice at The Hague has concluded its first private session on the Nicaraguan charge against the United States for the mining of the ports.

NICARAGUA ASKS BRAZIL FOR HELP WITH MINES

FL191924 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] It has been reported that the Nicaraguan Government has asked Brazil for help in deactivating 2,000 mines laid in its ports by agents of the clandestine services of the United States. The Nicaraguan ambassador in Rio de Janeiro, Ernesto Gutierrez, made this request during a lengthy interview with (Joao Clemente Baina), deputy foreign minister, [title as heard] who will soon take over the post of secretary general of the OAS.

NICARAGUAN PORTS, COSTA RICAN PLANE PROBE VIEWED

PA132016 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpts] A majority of the merchant ships scheduled to arrive at Nicaraguan ports have continued to arrive normally despite the mining carried out by elements at the service of the United States, Nicaraguan Domestic Trade Minister Dionisio Marenco has said in Managua.

Marenco told a group of journalists who visited the Port of Corinto facilities that the temporary result of this terrorist action has been the diversion to Costa Rica of some 5,000 tons of food, industrial products, and a variety of spare parts, as well as the loss of $200,000 which were to be collected for port services fees.

Other reports note that two Canadian vessels transporting potassium and phosphates for Nicaragua will try to dock at Nicaraguan ports despite the mining carried out by U.S. Government agents.

Mario Aleman, Sandinist Navy chief at the Port of Corinto, has said that the U.S. frigate Gallery, possibly the mother vessel for speedboats that carry out attacks against other boats and place mines in Nicaraguan waters, is 40 miles off the Nicaraguan coast.

On another subject, the two main security organs in Costa Rica are conducting parallel investigations on an airport [as heard] used by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups and on a mysterious plane that crashed in Costa Rica on 24 March. Sources of the Judicial Investigation Agency and of the Intelligence and Security Directorate in Costa Rica have said that the airport used by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups is probably located in the Costa Rican Province of Guanacaste, and voiced their suspicions that the DC-3 plane that crashed last March made a technical stopover there.

The aircraft -- believed to have transported technical and logistical support from El Salvador for the anti-Sandinist bands -- was burned together with the bodies of the crew members to prevent their identification. According to the latest investigations, at least two Salvadorans, three U.S. citizens, and four Nicaraguans died in the accident.

RAMIREZ SAYS CIA LAUNCHES OFFENSIVE IN NICARAGUA

PA191815 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has affirmed that at this moment his country is repelling a general offensive launched by the CIA following U.S. Government failures in policy against Nicaragua.

In a statement published by the Spanish newspaper DIARIO 16, Ramirez revealed that Nicaragua recently inflicted heavy blows against Washington at international forums and even within the United States. In fact, its specialists on international law and even the most conservative leaders in the world, including the U.S. Congress, have opposed the plans of President Ronald Reagan and the CIA, the Sandinist leader pointed out.

Referring to military operations, Ramirez said that some 2,000 counterrevolutionaries armed by the CIA were turned back toward the Honduran border in Zelaya Department. He added that the Nicaraguan Government knows the location of landing strips in Costa Rica, the registration of the aircraft, the supply warehouses, and the activities of the counterrevolution in that country.

NICARAGUAN FORCES RECAPTURE SAN JUAN DEL NORTE

PA182009 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Troops from the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] this Tuesday expelled the counterrevolutionary contingent that had infiltrated from Costa Rica the Nicaraguan town of San Juan del Norte.

An EPS communique notes that boats were sunk in the San Juan River by the Sandinist Air Force. The official report notes that EPS soldiers are searching the border region of Rio San Juan Department to establish the number of enemy casualties and the situation of the Nicaraguan soldiers who heroically faced the counterrevolutionaries in San Juan del Norte. The communique states that the mercenaries of traitor Eden Pastora sporadically used mortar fire to harass Nicaraguan areas.

It has also been reported in Managua that young people who enlisted in answer to the first appeal of the Patriotic Military Service inflicted serious blows on a counterrevolutionary force that entered the Nicaraguan Department of Jinotega from Honduras. As a result of fighting on 14 and 15 April, a company of the Jose Santos Lopez Battalion, specialized in irregular combat, inflicted 34 dead on that counterrevolutionary force.

Meanwhile, it was revealed in Washington by sources close to the CIA that the agency directed the sabotage operation against the Corinto sea terminal 3 months before the mining of the Nicaraguan ports. As a result of the Corinto sabotage, fuel deposits were destroyed and the townspeople had to be evacuated. According to these sources, who asked not to be identified, the 10 October incursion was carried out by mercenaries recruited by the CIA in Central America. These mercenaries arrived at the Port of Corinto in speedboats that left from a mother ship where U.S. agents directed the attack. That operation was mounted by the CIA, which in this way began participating directly in the activities of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries trying to overthrow the Sandinist Government, the sources said.

The sources also said that the CIA directed the attack carried out on 8 September against the Port of Sandino.

ARDE on Contras' Reaction

FL191510 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] A spokesman for traitor Eden Pastora's ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] has described the terror of the counterrevolutionaries who had infiltrated San Juan del Norte when they were forced to abandon their positions.

Prior to this, a Nicaraguan Defense Ministry communique had announced that the groups which had infiltrated San Juan del Norte, a town located just 2 km from the border with Costa Rica, had been driven back.

ARGENTINE COMMUNISTS PROPOSE NATIONAL FRONT

PA160354 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The Communist Party of Argentina has proposed to President Raul Alfonsin's government the creation of a national front to include all political parties, both democratic and popular. The Argentine Communists added that the proposal was made with the purpose of confronting the homeland's enemies, who have shown signs of regrouping. The party expressed concern over the fate of the government's negotiations with the IMF to refinance the country's foreign debt.

CHICAGO ASSOCIATION SEEKS INCREASE IN TRADE

FL191606 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 13 Apr pp 1, 13

[By Maximo Manuel Perez]

[Excerpt] The Association of Commerce and Industry of Chicago has explained to President Salvador Jorge Blanco and other Dominican officials the goals of a program to link the Dominican economy to the Chicago area and the U.S. Midwest. Association executives explained that they have personnel specialized in trade and investments to promote trade, licensing, and investments of all kinds. They have created the Caribbean Basin Promotion Center to originate and promote new trade and investment ties between the U.S. Midwest and the Caribbean, starting with the Dominican Republic.

The center has actively worked with U.S. compaines, many of which have operations under way in the Caribbean. The center also accepts specific industries, and works with companies that may be interested in importing goods from the Dominican Republic. The association stressed the fact that the Dominican Republic is an excellent example of the Caribbean nations that receive U.S. investments with open arms, backed by a stable political and commercial climate.

GOVERNMENT SIGNS COOPERATION PACT WITH JAPAN

FL171840 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 9 Apr 84 Section 4 p 1

[Excerpt] The Dominican Government has signed a series of project agreements with Japan which should add impetus to bilateral technical cooperation between the two countries. One project is to expand the cultural television network of Radio Television Dominicana.

After discussions and studies were carried out by the Dominican's Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, agreements were signed last week when a Japanese delegation visited the country. The new cooperation program encompasses these projects: Japanese volunteers, a feasibility study on the agricultural development of avocado and guava (IAD) [Dominican Agrarian Institute], the Cristal-Paraguay experimental farm, a feasibility study on the Piedra Gorda hydroelectric project (CDE) [Economic Development Council], studies for a National Telecommunications Network, a loan for a barge equipped with a steam-driven electrical generator (CDE), nonreimbursable funding for agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, and machinery (State Secretariat of Agriculture), and a pepper growing project (IAD).

The technical secretariat's under secretary, Dr Juan Antonio Gonzalez, and engineers and technicians from this secretariat took part in the meetings.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

NEW 15-MEMBER CABINET SWORN IN 19 APRIL

FL192208 Bridgetown CANA in English 2025 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] St John's, Antigua, April 19 (CANA) -- A new 15-member Cabinet that includes Vere Bird Jr, eldest son of Prime Minister Vere Bird, was sworn in this morning -- two days after a general election. The Cabinet contains three other newcomers. Bird, a practicing lawyer who had been a parliamentarian for the last eight years, served as national security adviser to the prime minister in the last government. He will take over the portfolio of minister responsible for public utilities and communications. That ministry was previously held by Ernest Williams, who retired from active politics after a record 35 years of service in Parliament.

The other newcomers in the Cabinet are Molwyn Joseph, Eustace Cochrane and Henderson Simon, appointed as ministers without portfolio. The appointment of the new Cabinet follows Tuesday's resounding election victory for the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) of veteran politician, Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr. The distribution of the other Cabinet posts went as they had in the last Cabinet. Bird's other son in Parliament, Lester, retains the post of deputy prime minister.No-one has been appointed minister of local government and the person who held that post in the last Cabinet, Joseph Myers, has not been retained in the present one.

Following is the Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet:

Vere Bird Sr -- prime minister.
Lester Bird -- deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, economic development, tourism and energy.
John St Luce -- finance minister.
Keith Forde -- minister of legal affairs and attorney general.
Reuben Harris -- minister of education, culture, youth affairs and sports.
Adolphus Freeland -- minister of labour, housing and cooperatives
Christopher Omard -- minister of health.
Robin Yearwood -- minister of agriculture, lands and fisheries.
Hilroy Humphreys -- minister of public works.
Vere Bird Jr. -- minister of public utilities and communications.
Hugh Marshall -- minister without portfolio.
Donald Christian -- minister without portfolio.
Eustace Cochrane -- minister without portfolio.
Henderson Simon -- minister without portfolio.
Molwyn Joseph -- minister without portfolio.

BARBADOS

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT ON ECONOMY

FL182228 Bridgetown CANA in English 1745 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 18 (CANA) -- Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams says the virtual abandonment of the principles of free trade by some fellow Caribbean Community (Caricom) states helped stymie the island's economic recovery last year.

Adams told Parliament last night, in his 1984 budget, that after two consecutive years of decline Barbados output stabilised in 1983. Domestic exports rose by 30 per cent, but real gross domestic product (GDP) -- the total value of all goods and services produced locally -- remained essentially the same at 749 million dollars (1 Bdos dollar; 50 cents U.S.).

"Were it not for external developments outside our control, such as the virtual abandonment of the principles of free trade by some of our Caricom partners the result would have been better," declared Adams who is also minister of finance. He said three thousand more people were unemployed at the end of 1983 than for the corresponding period the year before.

Thanks however to the successful conclusion of an 18 month balance of payments support programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Adams said, Barbados was now "better poised to take advantage of the upturn in the international economy.."

Following is Adams' summary of Barbados' economic performance last year:

The performance of the Barbados economy during 1983 must be viewed from the perspective of an open economy heavily dependent on trade with its major trading partners during a period of adverse economic conditions, a period during which most economies struggled to maintain at least their basic infrastructure in order.

Despite the efforts of government to motivate and sustain activity in the productive sectors of the economy, these were countered by more powerful international forces which joined to reduce and partly obscure the government's thrust.

These forces included high international interest rates, the existence of obstacles to regional trade, and the slow recovery in the industrialised world with its retarding effect on recovery in the developing countries.

Provisional data show that during 1983 the gross domestic product of Barbados was 1.9 billion dollars at factor cost, increasing by 6.2 per cent over the 1982 figure. This nominal increase in GDP was borne primarily by the manufacturing sector which accounted for 13.3 per cent of total GDP, up from its 12 per cent share in 1982.

Real GDP remained essentially unchanged at 749.2 million dollars as compared with 749.1 million dollars in 1982. Two of the major foreign exchange earners -- tourism and sugar -- recorded negative real growth in 1983, while output in the manufacturing sector increased only marginally. As in 1982, the non-sugar agriculture sector was the only sector to achieve any significant real growth.

Despite a sharp increase in tourist arrivals, there was no matching increase in tourist expenditure as the increased numbers on average spent less time on the island.

The USA tourist market was almost wholly responsible for the increase in visitor arrivals improving by 51 per cent, reflecting the earlier and stronger recovery of the U.S. as compared with the Canadian and European economies.

The market for long-stay European visitors was depressed as European currencies declined against the strong U.S. dollar, thereby making European tourist travel to those Caribbean destinations which are linked to the dollar increasingly expensive. The result was that real output in the tourism sector declined by 2.0 per cent.

Another poor performance was turned in by the sugar industry with production falling by 3.2 per cent below the 1982 level and the guaranteed prices under the Lome II Agreement with the EEC (European Economic Community) down by 3.3 per cent.

Actual production of sugar and molasses was 3.5 per cent lower at 86,000 tonnes despite reasonably good harvesting conditions and the reduced incidence on cane fires during the year.

These results reflect the accumulated effect of a series of problems created in previous years such as damage to the soil from excessive cane burning and compaction of the soil. The efforts to reduce cane burning must be greatly commended as only 4 per cent of the crop was destroyed by fire in 1983 as compared with 14 per cent in each of the previous two years.

Real output in this sector was 36.0 million dollars, contributing 4.8 per cent of total GDP. There was a sharp drop of 32.2 per cent in gross output from the small cane growers, indicating the reduction in activity among the small holders.

For the third successive year non-sugar agriculture recorded favourable real growth, contributing 33.1 million dollars or 4.4 per cent to total real GDP. This sector is more domestically oriented and does not react to international movements in the same manner as the outward-looking sugar sector. The real growth of 15 per cent in this sector resulted from the steady increase in the production of vegetables realised since 1980, increase in livestock production, and from an exceptionally strong growth of output in the fishing industry.

With the modernisation of Barbados' fishing industry, including the completion of the new fishing terminal at Oistins in Christ Church and the introduction of more fishing vessels with refrigeration facilities and which can venture further out to sea for longer periods, fish landings have so significantly increased that the existing marketing facilities were stretched to the limit of their handling capabilities. Fishing output in the fishing sector increased by 88.2 per cent.

Simultaneous with the exceptional performance of the non-sugar agriculture sector and, in particular vegetables and other food items, average food prices in Barbados by March, 1983 dropped to their lowest level for 12 months.

Real output in the manufacturing sector increased marginally by 1.9 per cent due largely to the good performance of the electronics subsector where output rose by 54.4 per cent. The other subsectors failed to improve on their 1982 performance.

Sales of manufactured goods to the region were reduced following the imposition of restrictions in Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica to the smooth flow of trade with these countries, while payment problems arose in the light of the breakdown of the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF).

Real activity in the construction sector slowed by about 1 per cent following the slowdown in public building activity and the shortage of mortgage finance for private building.

Gross domestic product at market prices reached 2.124 billion dollars, increasing by 6 per cent over 1982, without any significant increase in net indirect taxes.

Reflecting the tight economic situation, investment expenditure dropped by 6.5 per cent from 450.5 million dollars in 1982 to 421.2 million dollars in 1983 while total consumption expenditure was largely in the personal sector as government was able to contain its consumption growth to only 3.6 per cent during the year well before the inflation rate.

With the exceptionally strong performance of the non-sugar agricultural sector providing abundant domestic food at reasonable prices, and with a very slow movement in the prices of imported goods, the rate of inflation was kept at a very low level in Barbados during 1983. By March, 1983 average prices were on a downturn trend and at the end of the year the average rate of inflation was 5.3 per cent as compared with 10.3 per cent a year earlier. On a point to point basis at December, 1983 the rate was 5.5 per cent, the lowest level for many years.

Average food prices rose by no more than 2.7 per cent for the year and as this group actually has the greatest weight in the price index, its movement has a very strong influence on the overall retail price indicators. This figure was the lowest on record since the system of calculation was modernised in 1965. It is worth noting that food prices have fallen 3.3 per cent in the first three months so far of 1984.

The employment situation in 1983 was largely conditioned by the slow pace of international economic activity which severely restrained output in the major sectors of the domestic economy thereby limiting the employment generating capacity of the country. During the last quarter of the year the rate of unemployment was 15.8 per cent, increasing from 13.3 per cent for the same period in 1982.

The labour force declined slightly from 111,800 persons in 1982 to 110,500 persons but the number of persons employed fell from 96,000 at the end of 1982 to 93,000 persons in 1983. The participation rate of adults in the labour force remained high despite a 1 per cent drop to 63.3 per cent, and the number of persons actually in jobs was therefore very high for a Third World country.

Female unemployment which increased from 16.5 per cent in 1982 to 21.7 per cent in 1983 was the factor responsible for the increase in the overall rate.

There were declines in the number of persons employed in the wholesale and retail sectors and in several of the manufacturing subsectors which suffered because of the regional trade impasse; but employment in the utilities; transport and communication; construction and quarrying; as well as in the services sectors general actually increased.

The balance of payments, though under strain, recorded a surplus for the second successive year but of a considerably reduced magnitude. The balance on the current account improved significantly, moving from a deficit of 83 million dollars in 1982 to a deficit of 25 million dollars in 1983.

Domestic exports were some 30 per cent higher than in the previous year. Nominal receipts from exports to the USA increased from 153.1 million dollars to 241.7 million or by 57.9 per cent, while exports to the second major market, Caricom, were down by 1.6 per cent following the regional trade impasse in Caricom. Imports increased by 12.9 per cent during the year. They had actually declined in 1982. This higher level was mainly in the form of capital goods required for major capital projects such as the Heywoods Holiday Village and the Brawak Cement Plant. Imports of consumer goods also expanded as more motor vehicles were brought into the island.

Capital inflows were 43 per cent lower at 97 million dollars of which long-term capital accounted for 70 million dollars. Short-term inflows were reduced by 33 per cent and Barbados in 1983 actually became a net lender of short-term funds to the rest of the world.

Foreign reserves increased by 32 million dollars to reach a total of 220.4 million dollars at the end of the year, an amount which can accommodate 10.3 weeks of retained imports.

However, this offers no great comfort since some 120 million dollars of these foreign reserves are tied up in the form of illiquid or unusable Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) credit balances which our colleagues are unable to pay or unwilling to make arrangements to settle.

Government's monetary strategy in 1983 sought to create conditions adequate for capturing the benefits of the anticipated upswing in the international economy through providing financing for the productive sectors at reasonably low costs: and by maintaining its control on the balance of payments via a process of selective credit controls mainly on the personal and distributive sectors.

However, some latitude was given to credit to the retail sector later in the year and the restriction on bridging finance for home construction was removed.

To compliment its monetary strategy, government borrowing from the banking system was lower by some 20.1 million dollars at the end of the year, thus releasing funds for the needs of private borrowers.

Total deposits in the commercial banks grew by 7.0 per cent, a rate which was about the same as in 1982. With a much faster growing demand for credit, however, commercial banks were faced with a shortage of funds for on-lending purposes.

A balance had to be struck on interest rate policy in 1983, in order to guard against the outflow of funds by foreign investors in the light of too large a differential between domestic interest rates and those elsewhere, but taking account of the decline of those foreign rates.

The average lending rate was reduced in two stages from 13 per cent to 12 per cent at the end of April and to 11 1/2 per cent by June 30, 1983. Also, the minimum interest payable on savings deposits was lowered to 5 per cent.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LOW OIL PRICES PRODUCING ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

FL130003 Bridgetown CANA in English 2222 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 12 (CANA) -- Respected Trinidad and Tobago banker Leslie Scotland has painted a short term future picture of uncertainty for the economy of this heavily oil-dependent twin-island Caribbean Republic.

"The short term future is at best uncertain and at worst gloomy," said Scotland, corporate manager (economics and marketing) at the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. Scotland addressed a seminar on the local petroleum industry sponsored by the geological society.

Trinidad and Tobago whose income benefitted immensely from the world oil price increases between 1974 and 1981 is now suffering from a considerably "weakened" economy because the petroleum picture has changed.

A fall in the price of OPEC crude, a crisis in the international oil refining industry with its local sequel, and a decline in local production have led to an economic slowdown evident since 1981 which "deepened in 1982 and worsened in 1983," said Scotland.

With oil exports accounting for just over 90 per cent of total visible trade, and being the largest single contributor to foreign exchange earnings and government revenue, "unfavourable terms of trade for this one commodity has far reaching (and) even devastating effects on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago," said Scotland. The bank economist produced figures of a trend in foreign exchange reserves decline prompted by the troubled oil situation to suggest that in the near future oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago could very well face foreign exchange difficulties like some of its Caribbean Community (Caricom) partners.

A 22 per cent slump in visible exports in 1983 was accompanied by a sharp drop in export earnings to 4.7 billion dollars (1 TT dollar; 41 cents US) in 1983 from 6.5 billion dollars in 1982, Scotland said. He estimated that the resultant balance of payments deficit was equivalent to 10 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) that impacted on the country's foreign exchange reserves which declined by 33.6 per cent in 1983. Foreign exchange reserves fell by a further 19 per cent in the better part of three months of the current year, the bank official noted. "Assuming that the rate of depletion is not arrested," Scotland warned, "our foreign exchange reserves could be exhausted by mid-1985."

According to the bank official, this could result in a state of affairs "now being experienced by some of our less fortunate Caricom neighbours, who have difficulties in providing foreign exchange for even basic necessities."

In his budget presentation last January, Prime Minister George Chambers said that despite a 2.1 billion dollar decline in foreign reserves (from 7.1 billion at the end of 1982), Trinidad and Tobago could cover nine months of projected imports. The government has been instituting various measures to safeguard its treasured foreign reserves.

The troubled oil situation also impacted on government's fiscal operations, Scotland said, leaving a "gap" that had to be filled by "an increased need to drawdown on past savings, and to increase both internal and external debt." The bank official predicted that -- assuming a continuation of current trends -- "past savings could be exhausted in the current year or 1985." He also warned of possible problems in seeking to borrow on the external market in such a situation. "External borrowings in a declining economy may become more elusive," the bank official stated.

While Trinidad and Tobago's credit worthiness is "sound" based on past experience, Scotland felt that "a declining economy and unhappy experiences with other countries in the region may introduce an unprecedented degree of caution on the part of the international lenders." One result of the country's economic decline, according to Central Statistical Office (CSO), has been of a one per cent increase in unemployment between 1982 and 1983 with an estimated 8,900 persons retrenched in the same period, Scotland noted. With unofficial estimates putting the retrenched at "two to three times higher," Scotland felt there was a major task ahead for Trinidad and Tobago. "The task ahead is understandably a challenging one," he said, "compounded not only by the need for adjustment, but rapid adjustment if we are to avoid economic stagnation."

COLOMBIA

FORMER COCA GROWERS PLANNING PROTEST MARCH

PA162020 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 3

["One-Minute Notes" column by Dario Hoyos Hoyos: "Former Coca Growers Are Preparing a March to Florencia"]

[Text] Extremely reliable sources have disclosed that the government's determined and effective efforts against the drug traffic -- such as raiding large areas cultivated in coca -- have aggravated the social problems in the rural areas to the point that in Caqueta there are over 30 jobless peasants who do not know what to do with the land they used to till with the economic support provided by the "capos."

Thousands of unemployed people are organizing a march to Florencia to discuss the most serious problem of unemployment that has ever existed in the country.

The government is making efforts to replace the coca plantations with easily marketable agricultural products in crder to retain in the fields those farmers who were being used for criminal purposes.

The problem lies in deciding what kind of crops are adaptable to the region and in ensuring a stable market.

GUYANA

SOVIET NEWS AGENCY BEGINS SERVICE TO GEORGETOWN

FL192226 Bridgetown CANA in English 2105 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 19 (CANA) -- The official Soviet news agency TASS has begun serving Guyana under a bilateral agreement signed five months ago.

The commissioning ceremony took place at the office of the state-owned GUYANA CHORNICLE newspaper, limited, and followed the signing last November of an agreement between TASS and government-run GUYANA NEWS AGENCY, Information Minister Yvonne Harewood Benn said.

In keeping with the agreement, TASS communication engineer Boris Medvedev spent the last two weeks in Guyana installing and testing the relevant equipment.

"An important feature of the agreement is that it provides for the training of Guyanese in the maintenance and repair of telecommunication equipment," the minister said.

Benn said she was particularly pleased with the "training component of the agreement."

The GUYANA NEWS AGENCY, which was set up by the government after it withdrew from the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA) has similar agreements with the IRAQ NEWS AGENCY and subscribes to the AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY, ASSOCIATED PRESS, and INTER PRESS SERVICE.

PERU

APRA, UNITED LEFT SUPPORT CALL FOR DIALOGUE

PY191424 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1025 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 18 Apr (EFE) -- The American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) and the Marxist United Left have agreed to hold dialogues with Popular Action, the government party, to discuss the Peruvian problems to overcome the serious crisis affecting the country.

Sandro Mariategui, prime minister and minister of foreign relations, recently expressed his desire for national unity to face the serious economic and social situation calling for dialogue.

Alan Garcia, deputy, APRA secretary general, and his party's presidential candidate for the 1985 elections, labeled Mariategui's offer "positive". He said: "We are willing discuss the country's problems and how to resolve them."

However, Garcia conditioned a possible dialogue by saying that he first needs to know the plans of the new cabinet sworn in 1 week ago and the changes planned in the economic policies.

The United Left, made up of several Marxist parties, said through Communist Mayor Henry Pease that this organization was willing to talk with the government if practical measures for the welfare of the people are achieved through such a dialogue.

SURINAME

NETHERLANDS RELEASE OF EXPATRIATES PROTESTED

FL191218 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Suriname has protested the release in Holland of 16 Dutch and Surinamese expatriates expelled from French Guiana last March 24th. They were arrested at a guerrilla training camp on the French Guiana-Suriname border.